

# Discovering Australia's ★ **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE**

**COL STRINGER**

**AUSTRALIA -  
South Land of the Holy Spirit**

**New Revised  
Edition**



# **Discovering Australia's Christian Heritage**

by Col Stringer

**“La Australia del Espiritu Santo”**

**South Land of The Holy Spirit**



**Revised and Expanded  
Edition**





## What Others Say About This Book

*"This book adds a new and dynamic perspective to Australian history. Col Stringer's research reveals that the Christian heritage of our past is the foundation on which we are building our future. It will inspire you to see this nation in terms of its great destiny as we go about fulfilling the plans and purpose of God today."*

Pastor Brian Houston - Hills CLC and National President of the Assemblies of God - Australia

*"Fantastic! Col Stringer makes us proud we are Australians. We are not convicts, we are conquerors! Our heritage shows we are able to rise above circumstances. The roots of our nation and our faith in God will keep us focused, faithful and fervent for years to come!*

*Read this book!"*

Pat Mesiti



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**Col Stringer Ministries Inc**  
**PO Box 3554 Robina Town Centre. Qld 4230 Australia**  
Phone 07 55 227367 fax 07 55253376  
email address colstringer@austarnet.com.au  
website home.austarnet.com.au/colstringer

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Page 2 The First Fleet arriving in Australia painting by Ian Hansen

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I would also like to appeal to the reader and pray that the Lord touches your heart to get involved in this project. I believe we can make a difference in this great nation. You too "were born for such a time as this!"

**Col Stringer**  
**2000**





John McDouall Stuart - conqueror of the North.

## Foreword

*"O my people, listen to my teaching, Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past - stories we have heard and know, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children but will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord. We will tell of his power and the mighty miracles he did.....*  
***He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children,*** *so the next generation might know them - even the children not yet born - so they in turn might teach them to their children. So each generation can set its hope anew on God, remembering his glorious miracles and obeying his commands."* (Psalm 78: 1-8 The NLT).

Few Christians know anything of this nation's rich Christian heritage and the fact that it was dedicated to the Lord, or that many of our early explorers, pioneers and politicians were men and women of God. **It is largely unknown and, sadly, seldom taught, that Captain James Cook, Captain Charles Sturt, Edward John Eyre, Flynn of the Inland and many other famous names were men with a heart for the Lord. Certainly the "Providential" hand of God was upon their lives. Fewer still are aware that one of the men who co-authored our nation's constitution was Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, a man who prayed and was used of God in the founding of this nation. Not many people are aware that Australia has seen the Holy Spirit poured out in some 70 documented revivals!**

Many of this nation's founding fathers were Christians. However this does not mean that they were without fault, as many of today's critics are eager to point out. When we use the term Providential History (the hand of God on this nation) we do not mean a "sinless" history. As the Bible shows, God uses people, despite their shortcomings and faults. Many of this nation's early explorers, leaders and politicians did have shortcomings. They did mess up, like all men. However, most of them had a heart towards God and a will to obey Him. In "Australian Christian Life from 1788" the author writes: *"Christian history is a history of surprises. From such unpromising beginnings an heroic form of*



resolute, self sacrificing yet 'singing' Christianity began to make its way. From among soldiers, convicts, settlers, and Aborigines also, churches came into existence which powerfully affected the greater part of the entire population." (Murray I).

Many Australians today have a man-centred or humanistic national view. This is one of the main differences between our founding fathers and modern Australia, and is a major reason why our nation has such serious problems. Henry Parkes, the Father of Federation, said: "***we are pre-eminently a Christian people - as our laws, our whole system of jurisprudence, our Constitution.....are based upon and interwoven with our Christian belief.***" (Sydney Morning Herald 26/8/1885).

There are ungodly, humanistic forces at work that wish to change this nation, alter our Constitution, destroy our Judeo-Christian heritage and even change our flag. If they succeed then Australia will cease to be a Christian nation. We will have, like Easu, "sold our heritage"! What Australia needs is a fresh move of the Holy Spirit, but first we must reintroduce the faith of our founding fathers to our children - to teach them their Godly heritage. Daniel Webster wrote: "*If we and our posterity shall be true to the Christian religion, if we and they shall live always in the fear of God and shall respect His Commandments.....we may have the highest hopes of the future fortunes of our country... But if we... neglect religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of external justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity.*" (Webster D).

While the Christian historian A. Foljambe warns: "***The more thoroughly a nation deals with its history, the more decidedly will it recognize and own an over-ruling Providence therein, and the more religious a nation it will become; while the more superficially it deals with its history, seeing only secondary causes and human agencies involved, the more irreligious will it be.***" (Foljambe A).

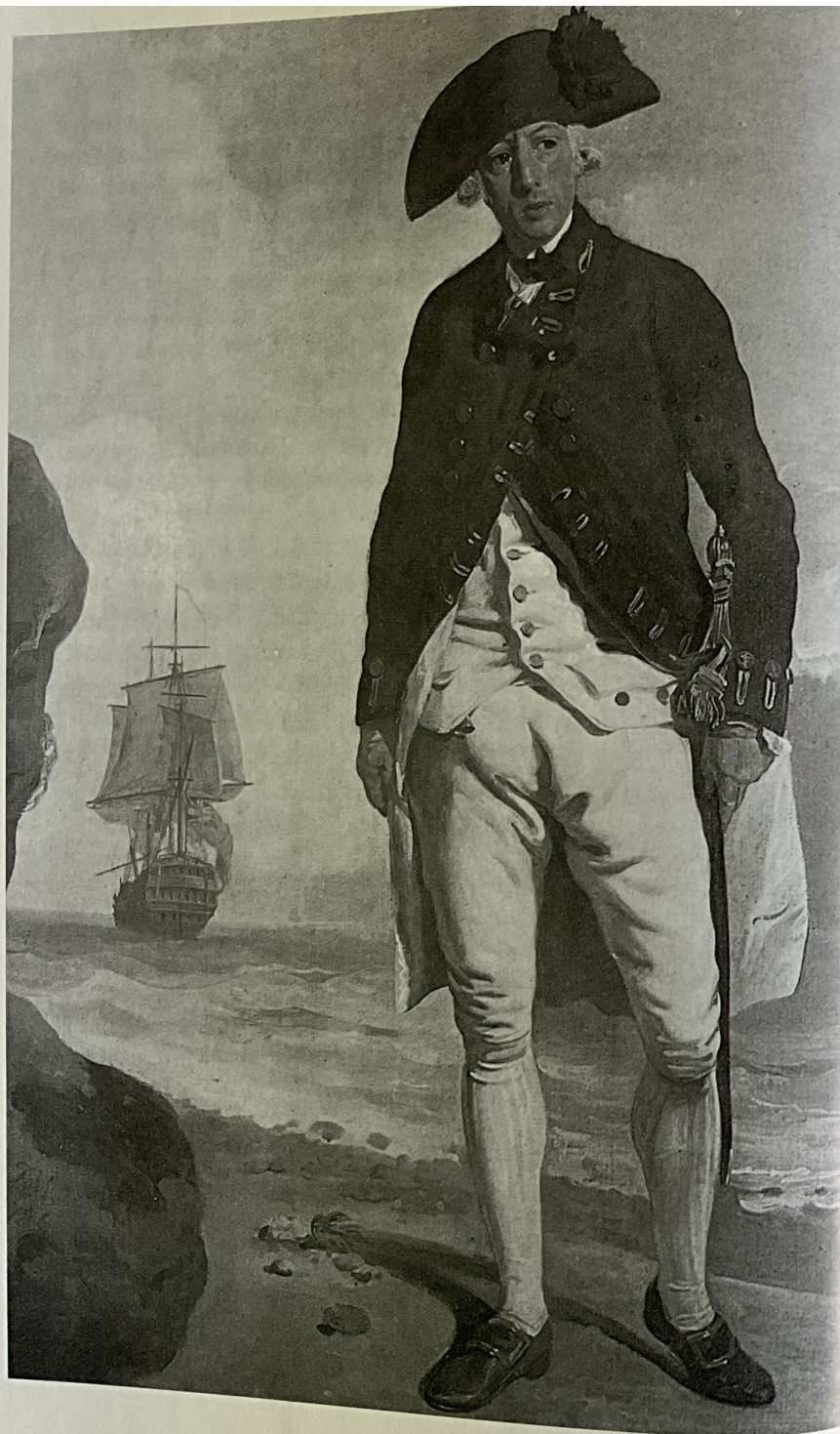
Where are the story tellers of old? Where are the grandfathers and grandmothers who sat the children upon their knees and taught them

Bible stories and their heritage, both their natural and their Godly heritage? The story tellers have gone, just another casualty of our modern world. But their passing has brought a marked change among the nation's young people. Crime, sex and drugs are rife. Many have lost their hope and identity, their self image has been destroyed. Others have little or no direction in life. Our youth suicide rate exceeds the national road death toll (among young males)! Why? One of the major reasons is because we have not taught them their Godly heritage. Who they are in Christ!

Sadly, Australia's Christian heritage has been eliminated from our educational and historical records. Generations of Australians have been cheated out of an honest look at their past, our Godly foundations. The affect upon our most precious national resource - our children - has been catastrophic. Winston Churchill warned: "***.....This of course, leaves that generation without a sense of definition or direction, making them the fulfillment of Karl Marx's dictum, 'A people without a heritage are easily persuaded.'*** *What is required when this happens and the society has lost its way is for leaders to arise who have not forgotten the discarded legacy and who love it with all their hearts. They can then become the voice of that lost generation, wooing an errant generation back to the faith of the fathers, back to the ancient foundations and the bedrock values.....*" (Never Give In The Extraordinary Character of Winston Churchill, Page 190).

Many Australians look externally for answers to their problems, but the answer lies within us, both individually and as a nation! This book has been written to illustrate our Christian heritage and to show how the Providential hand of God has rested upon Australia since time began. Certainly our past is filled with convicts, however, we also have a wonderful Christian heritage. I have a great love for this land and consider it a wonderful privilege to live here. But with that privilege comes responsibility! My desire is to infuse the faith of our founding fathers into the hearts of our youth! We must ensure that Australia always remains what it was intended to be - the "South Land of the Holy Spirit". Firstly we must pray for our land and secondly, teach our children their Godly heritage. Why? "***So they may place their hope in God!***"! Let me repeat a phrase Pat Mesiti wrote for for this book "***we are conquerors, not convicts!***"





# Chapter 1

## Heritage Is Important To God

*“Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations, Ask your father, and he will show you: Your elders and they will tell you. When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations He set the boundaries of the peoples.” (Deut. 32: 7).*

Self image will affect every area of our life. That is not only true for the individual but also for a nation. What we believe in our heart is the blueprint for our lives. In fact it is virtually impossible to consistently act in a different manner to our self image. How important must it be then to allow God, through His Word, to create within us the image He has of us? We should see ourselves through His eyes, His Word and not the way Satan or the world tries to portray us. Some Australians definitely harbour a low self image when it comes to spiritual things. They feel intimidated. Mainly, I believe, because we have been constantly taught that we are descended from convicts - the dregs, the flotsam and jetsam, the discarded refuse of British society. First of all let me say that at best this is a “half truth”. Secondly, that misconception *can* and *must* be changed. History is the dead record of events of what people or nations did *but heritage is a living thing*. It is the character, the very fibre and soul, including the spirituality, of those people - our ancestors! *Heritage is something of value that has been passed down from generation to generation!*

Some time ago, on a grey, wet, windy summer day Jan and I stood overlooking the port of Plymouth in Southern England. I, like everyone else, was aware that this was the seaport from which the Pilgrims set out in the Mayflower to colonise North America. But few folk, including most Australians, are aware that this was also the



same port from where Captain Cook sailed forth to find the nation of Australia on the 26th August 1768. After all, we were the "ugly duckling" of the British litter, the first to be founded by convicts and so our history has not been so popular.

However God spoke to me while I was in England and the thought came to me - "Do you think Australian children have a right to know their true heritage, or should they keep on believing a half lie - half truth?" Unsure of the meaning I was at least interested to know more. For instance, I had learned that convicts were not the only people the First Fleet brought to Australia but with them came a man of God, Richard Johnson, to proclaim the Word of God.

As well as bringing the convicts and the Word of God, the First Fleet also brought the English form of Christian government, based upon the Bible, to the Asian/Pacific region. God in His infinite wisdom had held this continent as His "secret weapon" for such a day. He had in fact been preparing this land since time begun. Australia, 'South land of the Holy Spirit' is, and always has been, a land with a destiny to touch this part of the world with the Gospel.

God has chosen this nation to be a launching pad of the Gospel into Asia, the Pacific and indeed the world. Now, after thousands of years the Holy Spirit was bringing the Word of God to a part of the earth inhabited by almost two thirds of the world's population. In the midst of a virtual sea of Islamic, Buddhist, Taoist and Hindu peoples, God was establishing a Christian Democracy which He would use in these last days.

### Our Godly Heritage

Few people I know look at Biblical faith as a heritage, but God does! He says: "*I am the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob*".

God speaks of generations and actually in this passage he speaks of three generations. He refers to fathers that pass on their spiritual heritage from generation to generation. Why? Because He is establishing a heritage of faith. Genesis 18:19 says. "*For I know him (Abraham), that he will command his children, and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord.*"

Some Christians feel that heritage has little relevance in our Christian lives today. I can only say that such people are biblically misinformed. I have had folks get angry and challenge me on this point by stating "That's all Old Testament, it doesn't apply to us today!"

The opening passage of the entire New Testament commences: "*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.*" (Matt.1:1) If God is not interested in heritage and ancestry how come He devotes the entire first 18 verses of the New Testament to this very subject? Within those first 18 verses of the Book of Matthew the word "begat" is mentioned no less than 40 times! "*Abraham begat Isaac, Isaac begat Jacob.....*", and so on.

These passages are meant to be "a memorial" of faith for us today. Have you ever wondered, what is a memorial? A memorial is something created to help us remember. For instance a war memorial or a particular holiday. In the Bible we read how Israel had set up such memorials as the Passover. These were instigated under instructions from the Lord. Why? Because He knew that memorials were necessary in order for the future generations to remember His goodness, His deeds and His mercy to that nation. God in His wisdom sees that it is necessary and that memorials are an important part of helping people know what God has achieved through their ancestors. They are vital for showing future generations their ancestry and their Godly heritage!

As Christians - sons and daughters of God - we are to create and pass on our heritage of faith. My Biblical ancestors lived this way and my Australian Christian ancestors lived this way before I did. Now I can learn from them and hand that "seed", that heritage of faith, on to my children and grandchildren! We must teach them their heritage so that they may place their hope in God. Our youth need to have godly heroes of faith, not movie, sport and rock stars.

### Australia Is A Christian Nation

Most Australians are completely unaware that this is a Christian nation! The opening sentence of the preamble to our nation's Constitution states: "*Whereas the people of NSW, Victoria, SA, WA, Qld and Tasmania, humbly relying on the blessings of Almighty God, have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth.*"



Notice the words *“humbly relying on the blessings of Almighty God”*. These words were adopted by our forefathers in the year 1901. Originally there was no mention of God in the first proposed constitution, but people from all over this great nation began to write to their representatives demanding that acknowledgment of the Lord be included. Many realised that the reason that this nation is so blessed is because it is a Christian nation.

It was as a direct result of the actions of the people that this line was written into our constitution. Let me quote some of the other suggestions that were proposed. Tasmania suggested: *“Duly acknowledging Almighty God, as the supreme ruler of the Universe and the source of all true government”*. Western Australia suggested: *“Being grateful to Almighty God to secure and perpetrate its blessings”*. It is obvious our founding fathers were keen to acknowledge from where our roots and blessings are derived from - Almighty God.

### **Many Of Our Forefathers Were Men /Women Of God**

Famous names such as Captain James Cook, Charles Sturt, Edward John Eyre, Flynn of the Inland, Governor Macquarie, Carolyn Chisholm are but a few of our forefathers who were men and women of faith, who had accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. We have in our possession a “like precious faith”, a Godly heritage that has been passed down to us and one we need to pass on to the generations to come. This is our history of faith, these are Australia’s “heroes of faith”. You and I have been handed a wonderful heritage of faith in this great land. I don’t want to dishonour that faith. I don’t want to be the one to “drop the ball”, but to pass it on to my family.

I believe the Lord urged me to dig and seek out the truth, so as we can declare it to the people of this great land, especially the younger generation. Jesus said that we would know the truth and the truth would set us free and that is exactly what I believe is happening. I believe that this book is just part of that process of setting Australians free from their ancestral and spiritual inferiority complex. What I have discovered has enthralled me. I believe that every child in this great country should be taught their rich, second to none, Christian heritage. We have a heritage of which we can be justly proud! Many of our most famous and courageous explorers, founding fathers, politicians, educators and men and

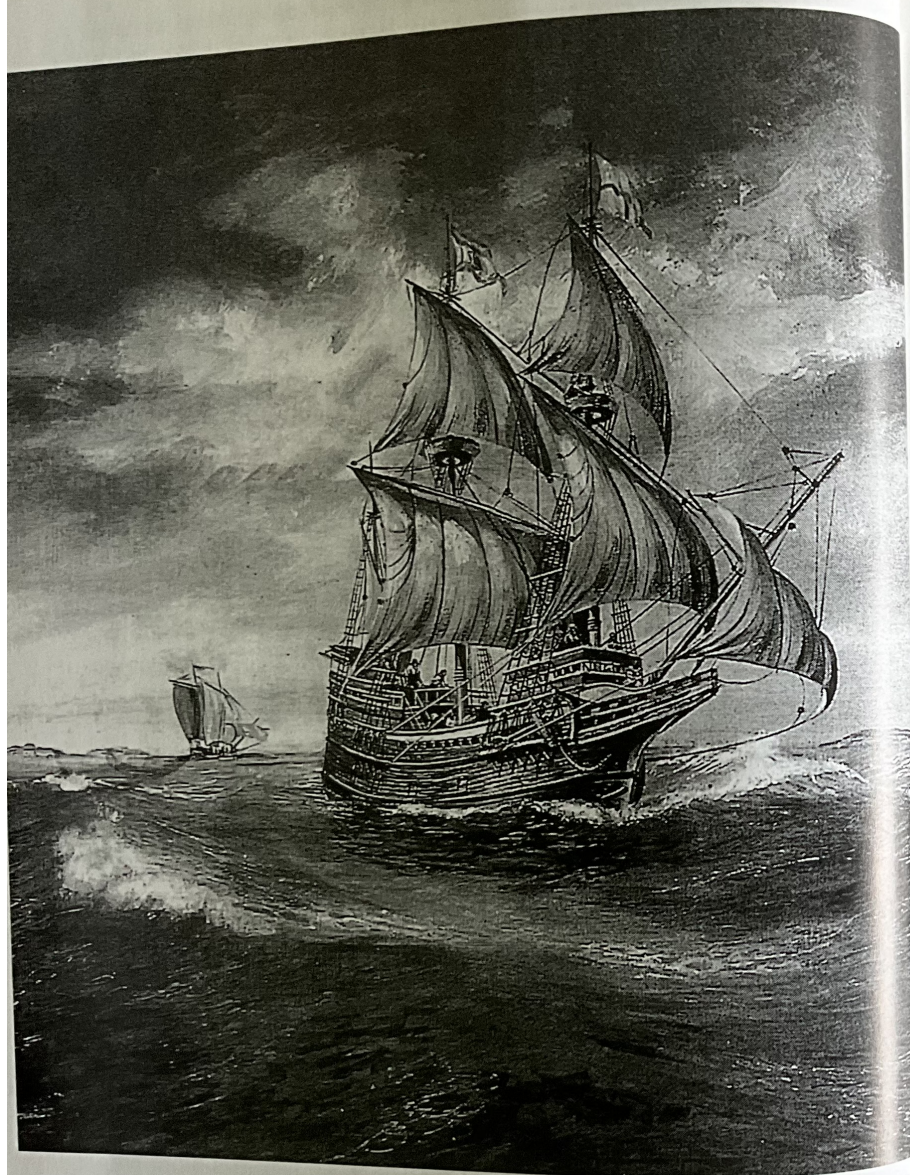
women who shaped this great land were believers who had accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and were openly vocal about their faith. We must never lose sight of the fact that Australia is a country founded on Christian principles! This is the very heart of Australia!

The light of the Gospel has shone in this nation since the very first contact with European explorers, even though that light has sometimes been little more than a flicker. Satan has tried unsuccessfully to snuff this light out through periods of darkness. In Acts 16 we find the account of Paul and Silas being arrested, beaten and thrown into gaol. The reason? Verse 20 says: “..These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city.” How did they trouble their city? Verse 21: “They teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.” They challenged their religious customs, Paul challenged their “sacred cows” and their very way of thinking. I believe the Lord is challenging Australia’s sacred cows - this convict, Eureka Stockade, Ned Kelly - this rebellious, anti-authority mentality so entrenched in the nation’s psyche.

As I have already pointed out we all need to have memorials in our lives. If we fail to take the time to reflect on these Godly memorials, then we individually, and as a nation can drift off course and go astray. These memorials give us goals for the future as they provide a secure foundation from the past. Any nation that loses or forgets its heritage is like a ship without a rudder! God has given me a love, and a father’s heart, for Australia and so I have written this book as a memorial to our Godly Christian forefathers - their faith, their courage, their sacrifice, their blood, sweat and tears - and their prayers for this great nation.

We stand at a critical time in our nation’s history, the Bible calls these days “perilous times”. It’s painfully obvious that our world has changed forever since the tragic events of Sept. 11th - the attacks on the USA by Muslim terrorists. While within our nation we face mounting pressure to remove our Christian foundations, to “overrule” our founding fathers, discard our flag, rewrite our Constitution and removing all acknowledgements of a Christian God. The consequences of losing our Christian heritage are too horrendous to contemplate. We can pass onto our children a Christian heritage and see the blessings of God continue, or we can see it change for the worst. Like Esther, we too were “born for such a time as this”!





*Pedro Fernandez de Quiros two ships*

## Chapter 2

# Our Godly Foundation

### “La Australia del Espiritu Santo”

*“What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people He has chosen for His own”. (Psalm 33:12. New Living Translation).*

Is Australia really a Christian nation? Where have we come from as a nation? What is our true history? What are the foundations of this nation? Where are we going and what is our destiny? We can certainly find the Lord in the foundations of Australia and I believe we can gauge something of its destiny by looking at the origins of its name. Names in the Bible indicated character. For instance, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham - “father of many nations”. His wife’s name, Sarai, was changed to Sarah - “mother of a multitude”. Jacob’s name meant swindler, which the Lord changed to Israel. Simon (unstable like a reed, blown about) became Petros or Peter (a rock, strong, immovable). Often the Bible records names because of the incidents that took place there and may even indicate the destiny associated with that name.

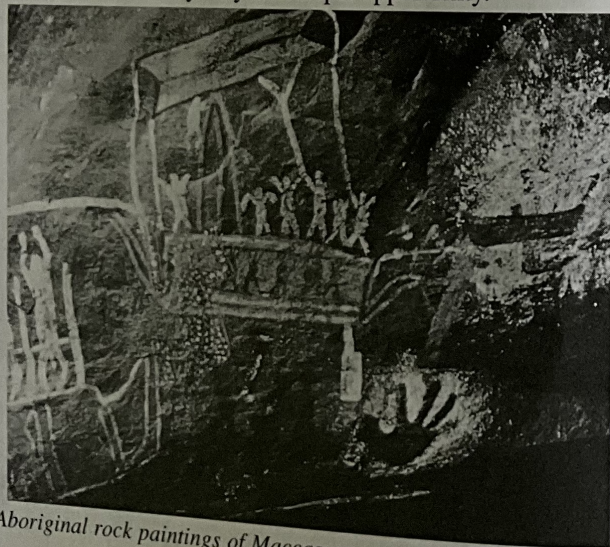
Many people feel that Australia is a land with a curse over its head. Numbers of Australians believe the foundation of our nation is based upon convicts - the dregs of British society - the prostitutes, thieves, and political dissidents. That we are still yoked to a spirit of rejection, bondage and poverty. I have heard ministers of the Gospel preach such things and in fact this is sometimes taught to our children in our schools! **But as you will see there is another side to the coin that has remained largely untold.**



For instance both my own family and my wife's ancestors were all free settlers who came to South Australia, much like the Pilgrims who immigrated to the United States. Few Australians know that we had our own group of "pilgrims" who came from Prussia (Germany) because of their persecution as Christians. Many of our founding fathers, explorers and pioneers were godly men and women of strong Christian faith. In fact the "Providential" hand of God rested firmly on almost all of our explorers and founding fathers! Unfortunately this fact is most often overlooked in our humanistic society and education system.

### Why Wasn't Australia Colonised By The Muslims?

Have you ever wondered why Australia was not colonised long before it was? Why didn't the Muslims colonise this place? After all they were visiting our shores for hundreds of years before the Europeans came. I used to live in the Northern Territory and have been to the Arnhemland Coast many times and observed first hand the sites visited annually by the Maccassans of Indonesia. For centuries these people regularly sailed to our shores to trade with the local natives, to fish for trepang, turtles and shells. They interbred with the local Aborigines, even taking some of them back to their homelands with them. These were seafaring people who explored and colonised much of South East Asia, including the Indonesian Archipelago, but they never ever set up permanent colonies here. Why not? Certainly they had ample opportunity.



Aboriginal rock paintings of Maccassan praus, Groote Eylandt N.T.

It was the same with the Chinese. They were some of the great explorers and traders of their day. They colonised much of South East Asia but stopped short of coming to Australia. Maps from ancient China have been found marking the north coast of Australia. Why did they never try to colonise Australia?

And what about the Hindus? They colonised Bali, which is only a few hundred kilometres across the Arafura Sea from Australia's north coast. Why didn't they sail the last few kilometres and claim this land? I believe, like many of my forefathers, that the Lord's hand has been upon this nation since time immemorial. Doesn't it seem strange that this huge, almost vacant continent was left untouched for thousands of years? It is almost as though this huge continent, situated in the most populated area on earth, was invisible to eyes of all others until it was discovered by Christians.

Even historian Professor Manning Clark felt that there was something peculiar as to why this never took place and that there was more here than meets the eye. He documents in his very well researched book "The History of Australia", that the Muslims, Chinese and Hindus all had a fear of making the sea voyage to Australia.

### The Hindu-Buddhists

*"The Hindu-Buddhists, partly from population pressure, partly to obtain spices... and partly to win converts for their religious faith, began to colonise Sumatra, Java and the islands of the archipelago in the first century of the Christian era... The Hindu religion (though not the Buddhist) prohibited .... contact with foreigners, and a queer 'geography' supplemented the teaching of religion.... But it was the advent of Islam both in the mother country and in the archipelago which ended Hindu-Buddhist colonisation and evangelisation by the middle of the fifteenth century."* (Clark M. Professor).

### The Taoists and Buddhists

*"Like those of the Hindus, the Chinese description of the area lapsed from fact to fantasy as soon as they reached the invisible frontier on the map beyond Timor. East of Sho-P' o, ran one of the descriptions in the thirteenth century, lies the ocean sea where the waters flow downward: there is the kingdom of women....In 1433 the voyages of Cheng*



Cheng Ho were abruptly ended by a revolution at the Chinese court when a rival group, which despised trade and luxury and frowned on contact with foreign barbarians took over from the party.” (Ibid).

### The Muslims

“Muslim merchants and missionaries had arrived in Java by the 11th century. From then until 1600 the history of the Indies was in part the story of conversion by persuasion and force, to the religion of Islam. ...when Torres sailed through the straits which still bears his name, he met Moors in New Guinea (1607).” (Ibid) “...Muslims lapsed into fantasy when describing the world south and east of the line between civilisation and barbarism. Before 1400 they referred to it (Australia) as *Dedjdar* or the kingdom of the Antichrist.” (Ibid).

It's interesting to note that Australia was known to these religions as the “land of evil spirits”. It is even more interesting to note that even historians have acknowledged “something” (the hand of God) was protecting the “Southland of the Holy Spirit” from colonisation by these religions!

### Southland Of The Holy Spirit - An Honour Bestowed On No Other Nation

“It may seem strange to include a Portuguese navigator amongst notable Australian Christians. However, this remarkable man should not go unnoticed, and his life and deeds are worthy of tribute. For it is to this man that we owe the very name of our country, and it is to this man's ‘vision splendid’ that many look with longing for a hope and a future - a land dedicated to the Holy Spirit. This man was Pedro Fernandez de Quiros.” (de Looper M).

In 1606 de Quiros became the first explorer to lay claim to Australia, but he was also a man with a heart for God. Between the 14th and 15th centuries the Spaniards began sending expeditions into the South Pacific as they were convinced there existed a great land ‘terra australis’. Their fervour to carry the Bible to these lands (as well as a quest for riches) is borne out in a letter from a Spanish diplomat to King Phillip 111: “That no time be lost in discovering that Austral Region so far unknown, so these people may have knowledge of the Gospel and be brought into Spiritual obedience.” (Pp 302 - Duke of Sesa Y de Vaena).

De Quiros gave this continent its name “La Australia del Espiritu Santo” or literally “Southland of the Holy Spirit”. A rule applies in Scripture which is called the law of first reference. Whenever we find a word used in a certain way, it is assumed the same meaning continue on without change. In Hebrew, names not only indicate character but often also the destiny of those granted that name. What does this suggest for the destiny of Australia? No other nation has ever been blessed with the name “Land of the Holy Spirit”!



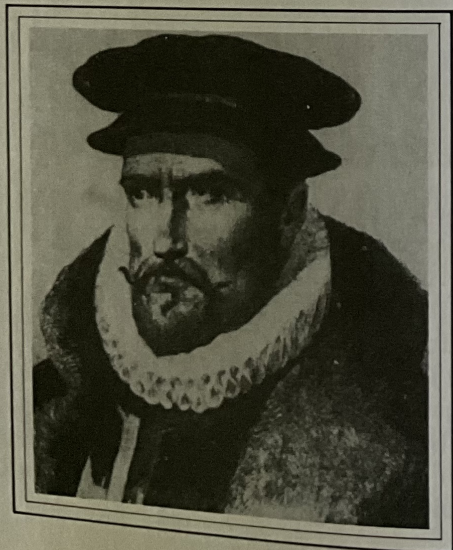
“...one of the few pre-Cook maps showing Australia. It was produced in 1753 by Jacques Bellin, official Hydrographer to Louis XIV, ...The east coast of Australia is shown as an imaginary line running from Terre de Diemen (Tasmania) to Nouvelle Guinee (New Guinea) and including Espiritu Santo. The coastal note translates: “I suppose that the land of Diemen can join with the land of the Holy Ghost but this is without proof.” (Dutch engraving of the map.) Note the inscription and the map of the North Queensland coast credited to de Quiros. “Terre du St Esprit Decouverte en 1606 par Fernand de Quir.” (Land of the Holy Spirit discovered in 1606 by Fernandez de Quiros.)



De Quiros was a man of faith and great missionary zeal, being firmly convinced that the Lord had chosen him to discover and bring the Gospel to "terra australis". *"From his youth he seems to have been caught up in the missionary enthusiasm of the age... He was a gentle spirit, one of God's chosen vessels bringing the gift of his holy faith. For Quiros, all men were the adopted children of God... He began to believe that he had been singled out by God as the vessel through whom the inhabitants of 'terra australis' would be received into the church, and that 'terra australis' would be Australia del Espiritu Santo - a land dedicated to the Holy Spirit."* (Article on de Quiros in Enciclopedia Italiana (1949) "The Voyages of Pedro de Quiros" vol 1, pp 163-5).

The explorer was so convinced of his divine calling that upon gaining royal approval for his venture he decorated the prows of his ships with a statue of the Apostle Peter. On the eve of the voyage Captain de Quiros said to his men: *"Pray to God,.... that it may serve Him to show greater lands and other things: for greater are my desires that the King our Lord may deign to grant to all still greater favours"*. (De Looper M).

Sailing into the waters of the South Pacific and sighting land de Quiros took possession, calling it the South Land of the Holy Spirit. His actual proclamation was as follows: *"Let the heavens, the earth, the waters with all their creatures and all those here present witness that I, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros..... in the name of Jesus Christ*



*.....hoist this emblem of the Holy Cross on which His (Jesus Christ's) person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the ransom and remedy of the human race .....on this Day of Pentecost, 14 May 1606...I, take possession of all this part of the South as far as the pole in the name of Jesus....Which from now on shall be called the Southern land of the Holy Ghost...and this always and forever...to the end that to all natives, in all the said lands, the holy, sacred evangel may be preached zealously and openly."* (Markham C).

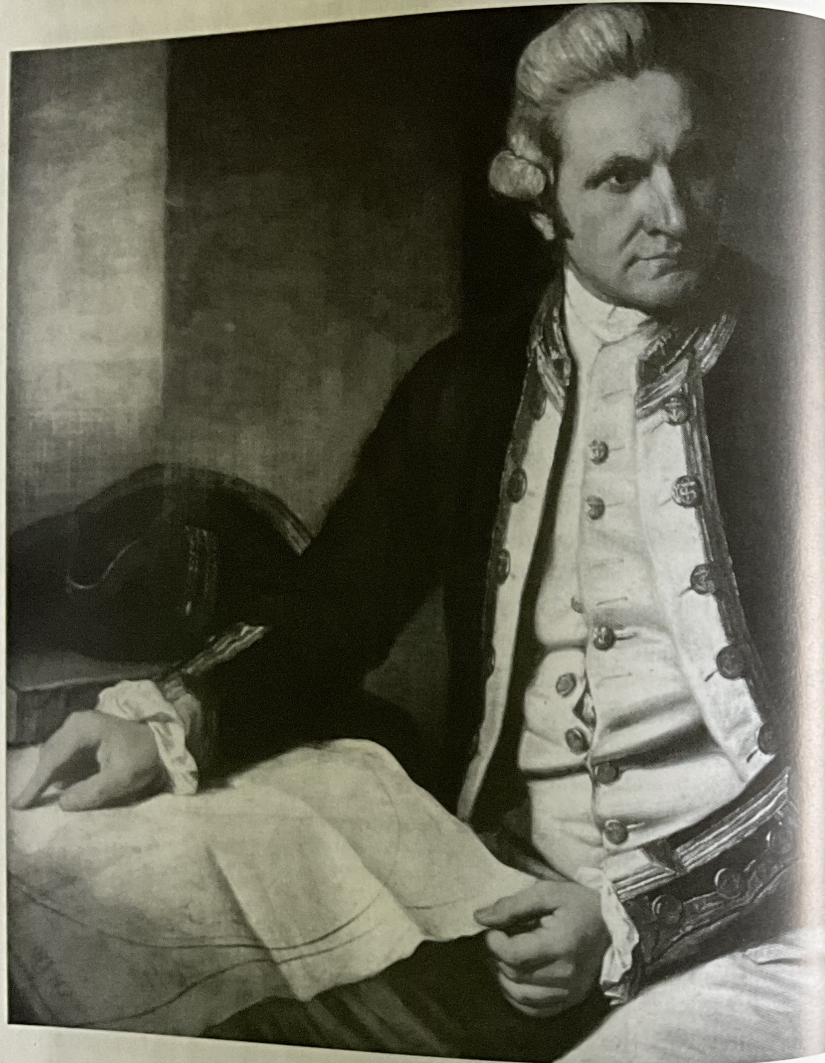
After the proclamation the ships' cannons roared and soldiers fired their muskets in a thunderous roar of celebration. In the midst of all this de Quiros and his men shouted with joy: *"Long live the Faith of Christ!"*

Even if de Quiros never actually set foot in Australia (although its highly possible his second in command -Torres did) he did claim this land for the Lord. Manning Clark writes: *"Then with a majestic sweep he reminded himself of his subjection to the ordinances of God, His high and sacred decrees, as well as the wishes of man. Whatever it was, whether obedience to the inscrutable decrees of Providence or the use of divine commands to justify the promptings of the heart....."*

*".....de Quiros came within an ace of discovering Australia and not for want of determination or faith. But God's will was otherwise disposed, it was left to other Europeans of another denomination to found and colonise white Australia."* (De Looper M).

De Quiro's other captain, Torres, continued the voyage, reaching the Philippines after sailing through the previously uncharted waters of Cape York - the strait that still bears his name, 'Torres Strait'. However de Quiros returned to Spain, where he was vilified, accused of lying and fraud. The one thing that sustained him during these trying times was his dream of the great south land that he had dedicated to his Lord Jesus Christ. In the explorer's times of trial one can see the Lord at work, for it was through his writings that the rest of the world learned of his great discovery. Soon the English and Dutch took advantage of his discoveries and launched their own expeditions in their quest to find the "South land of the Holy Spirit". Let the magnitude of these words sink in. No other nation on earth has ever born the name, "Land of the Holy Spirit". What an awesome honour for Australia!





Captain James Cook

## Chapter 3

# Our “True Blue” Heroes Of Faith

### The Duyfken (Dove) - Symbol Of The Holy Spirit

In 1606 a small 60 ton yacht called “The Duyfken” (Dutch for Dove) arrived off the coast of Cape York Peninsular. Under the command of Willem Janszoon: *“a courageous man of immense talent not only as a navigator, but also as a leader who was able to inspire faith in his crew despite overwhelming odds.”* (page 1). A replica of the Duyfken made a commemorative voyage to Cape York this year. Some 164 years before Cook arrived, the first recorded contact between Christians and Australia’s Aboriginal people took place. And it just “happened” to be by a commander with a heart for the Lord, in a ship called the Dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit. Willem Jansz or Janszoon to be correct, is described in a reference from his employers - the Dutch East India Company - as a *“good natured, modest and pious man”*. In the year 1600 the word “pious” carried a vastly different meaning than it does today, it meant *“devoted, deeply spiritual and religious”*. The writings of Janszoon and his follower, Jan Coen’s, are punctuated with phrases such as *“.....but this voyage, Praise God, things went better”*. Janszoon, later Governor of Banda in the Dutch East Indies, wrote in 1625: *“The Church service in Banda has progressed, especially with the schools which on our recommendation have been improved steadily and diligently.”* (Pp118 H. van Zanden).

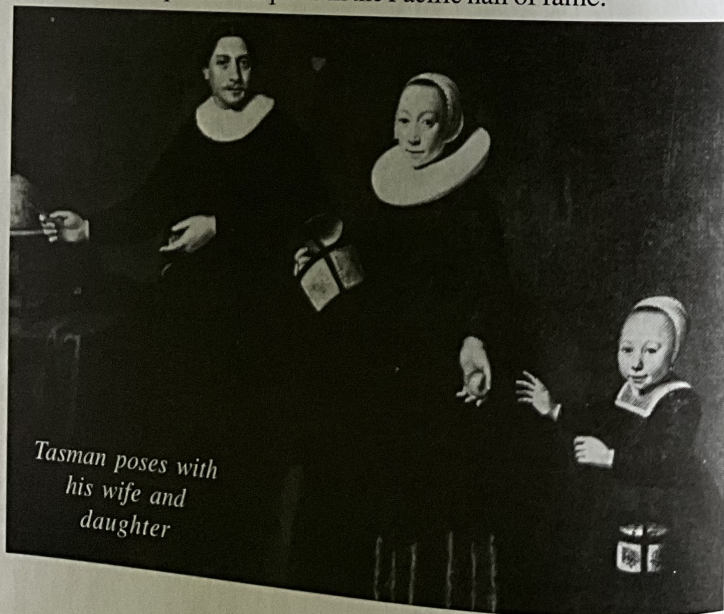
### Abel Tasman

Tasman continued the trend of Dutch explorers, open to the Lord, who have touched this land. He wrote: *“They sailed in 1642 with Tasman’s mind on higher things: ‘May God Almighty, he wrote in his journal, ‘vouchsafe His blessing on this work’...when they arrived ..after a voyage of 10 months, whereupon Tasman, wrote in his diary: ‘God be praised and thanked for this happy voyage’.”* (Clark Professor M).



*"praying that He (the Lord) may in His mercy give you manly courage in carrying out the exploration, and may grant you a safe return to the increase of His glory....."* While Manning Clark writes: *"...with Tasman's mind for the moment on higher things, he wrote: 'May God Almighty, vouchsafe His blessing on this work' .....when they arrived on 14 June 1643, after a voyage of ten months, whereupon Tasman, in a rare comment, wrote in his diary: 'God be praised and thanked for this happy voyage..'"*

Tasman sailed from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) in search of the supposedly wealthy South Land. His two ships were totally unsuitable for the voyage. Tasman was sailing into the unknown, Dutch maps of the time were inadequate and he possessed neither sextant nor chronometer to enable him to calculate longitude accurately. But what Tasman lacked in scientific knowledge and equipment he more than made up for with faith and courage. He sailed to Tasmania, which he named Van Diemens Land, after the Governor of the Dutch East Indies. He also named New Zealand before sailing back to Batavia via Tonga, Fiji and the Solomon Islands after an outstanding journey of 8000 kilometers. Tasman's achievements were not recognized until long after his death. It was Joseph Banks who recognized his extraordinary feat and brought it to the attention of the world, referring to Tasman as 'a great man' and he has since held a prominent place in the Pacific hall of fame.



*Tasman poses with his wife and daughter*

## William Dampier

Dampier was another explorer who reflected a Godly understanding of "Providence" - the hand of God in his voyages. A reformed pirate he records in his book "A Voyage To New Holland": *"...the Things themselves in the Discovery of which I have been employed, are most worthy of our diligentest Search and Inquiry; being the various and wonderful Works of God in different Parts of the World"*. (Dampier W.). He later wrote: *"I returned to England....For which wonderful Deliverance from so many and great Dangers, I think my self bound to return continual Thanks to Almighty God; whose Divine Providence if it shall please to bring me safe again to my Native Country....."* (Mc Lennan Dr. G).

## Captain James Cook

Captain James Cook is probably the most famous name in our nation's history. He was of course the first Englishman to discover Australia. If one reads the usual history books any insight into the man's character and spirituality are omitted. Christopher Columbus may have been the man who carried the Word of God to America but it was Captain James Cook who carried it here to Australia - South Land of the Holy Spirit.



*Cook landing at Botany Bay, stopping his men from firing on the Aborigines*



Cook's name is still revered in the Royal Navy, second only to Admiral Lord Nelson. One only has to visit the town of Whitby in England to see the high esteem in which he is still held. It is said that King George the third wept when he heard of Cook's death, but he did not mourn alone - so did all of Britain. Cook was born in Yorkshire in 1728, the son of a farm-labourer, and was baptised in the Anglican Church the same year. Although Cook was only a nominal church goer most writers attribute him to being a Christian, (certainly his wife was) but without question the hand of God (Providence) weighed heavily on his life. Cook was apprenticed to Whitby shipowners, the Walker brothers, who were committed Quakers. It was John Walker who continued to have a profound affect upon Cook's life. In fact Cook lived in his family home and Walker continued to be his life long friend. *"No doubt Walker's Quaker home provided James Cook with some of his kindness and humanity"*. (Hough R.).

The high regard Cook held for his Christian friend is illustrated in the fact that upon his return from his epic 35 month voyage of discovery, one of the first things he did was write to, and then visit his old friend! As he was about to embark upon his second voyage he again wrote to Walker: *".....I should hardly have troubled you with a letter, was it not customary for men to take leave of their friends before they go out of the world....When I think of the inhospitable parts I am going to, I think the voyage dangerous. I however enter upon it with great cheerfulness, Providence\* has been very kind to me on many occasions, and I trust in the continuation of that divine protection.."* (Ibid, page 688).

Cook's life continued to be influenced by godly men and women. This Christian influence is apparent as Cook's son Hugh was a student at Christ's College in Cambridge and about to enter the ministry when he met his untimely death. While apprenticed to the Walkers, Cook read and was fascinated by the writings of Pedro Fernandez de Quiros voyage to the South Pacific. These writings would change his life!

\* Providence was a word commonly used by Christians in the 15th and 16th century. It signifies the Bible doctrine of the overruling power of the Lord that governs in the affairs of man. Webster's Dictionary defines the word "Providence" as the "care and superintendence which God exercises over His creatures." By "Divine Providence" is God understood Himself. Written in the times in which our founding fathers lived, it helps to understand what they meant when they used the term.

Rising from humble beginnings, which were monumental for the days in which he lived, Cook appears to be destined for greatness. Australia had remained undiscovered by Europeans for centuries but the hand of God was about to change all that. The fact that Cook was offered command of his own ship at the age of just twenty seven speaks volumes about his exceptional abilities. For a time he would serve in the war raging in North America, but it was his next assignment that was to propel him into the annals of history, making his name a household one. He was destined for the South Pacific. The captain was the greatest combination of seaman, explorer, navigator and cartographer the world has ever known and was certainly a man of great courage, determination, character, and morals. *"He was, in the judgment of F. Burney, whose brother sailed with Cook, 'the most moderate, humane and gentle circumnavigator that ever went upon discoveries'"*. (Ibid, page 3). *"So highly valued was his work for the betterment of man in days of peace, that the French and Americans, at the height of a naval war against his country, gave Cook's ships immunity from interference."* (Ibid, pp 2).

Cook was not just a good captain, he was an exceptional one and a moral one who was always concerned about the welfare of his men. He refused to allow cursing and profanity aboard his ships and personally conducted divine services for his crew on Sundays. Cook displayed some of his godly character: *"From the accounts of his shipmates, most of whom availed themselves of the favours offered by South Seas beauties, it would appear that James Cook remained faithful to his far-away wife, who was equally faithful at home....it seems rather touching that on those long voyages, when he alone kept himself 'clean and uncontaminated.....'"* (Murray-Oliver A, page 19).

## Cook In New Zealand

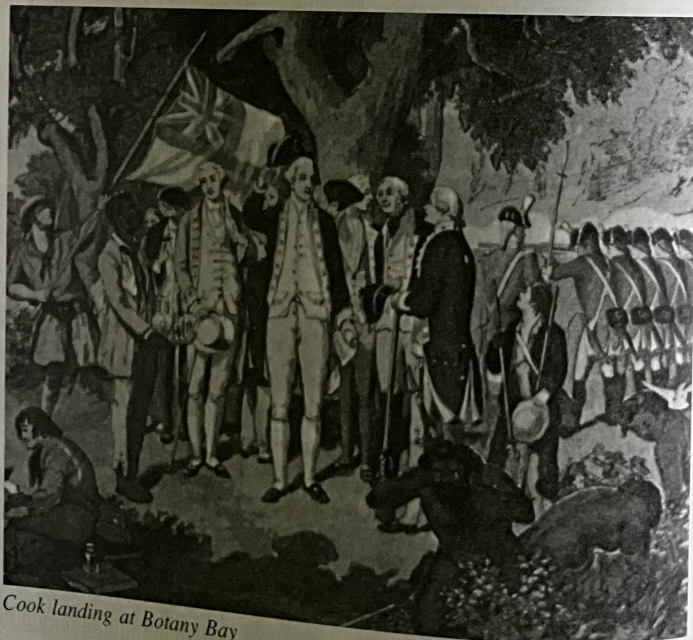
Cook's ship 'The Endeavour' was a collier some 30 metres long and 9 metres wide. It weighed just 368 tonnes. The expedition departed 25<sup>th</sup> August 1768 and reached Tahiti on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. After observing the transit of the planet Venus they sailed to New Zealand. Cook, like Tasman, was attacked by Maori, but to his credit he persisted and eventually made friendly contact with them. He had with him a Tahitian tohunga - who was able to communicate with the people on his behalf. Thus he was able to establish friendly relations with the Maori people. In fact they thought that both he and his ship were supernatural beings. The



captain loved and respected the Maori and avoided bloodshed if at all possible. In return the Maori also revered Cook. A native woman who had met him as a young girl recalled their encounter: "*a noble man, a Rangatira, cannot be lost in the crowd.*" (Begg A.C. and N).

### The Providential Hand Of God On Cook's Life

In 1770, after charting the islands of New Zealand, Cook landed at Botany Bay where he claimed this continent in the name of the King. His writings of his adventures proved extremely popular at that time, and it is through these writings that we begin to see the hand of the Lord at work in his life. Few people realise how perilously close Cook came to being shipwrecked on Endeavour Reef. The ship was badly holed and had it not been for a large lump of coral that wedged into the gaping hole (and a place for them to beach the Endeavour) she would have sunk, drowning the crew or at best marooning them in Australia for the rest of their lives. After narrowly avoiding another tragedy Cook acknowledged the hand of God: "*It pleased God at the very juncture to send us a light air of wind, which, with the help of our boats, carried us about half a cable's length from the present danger.*" (Clark M. Professor).



Cook landing at Botany Bay

Andreas Sparrman aboard the Resolution, on Cook's second voyage wrote: "*It was only possible to accomplish this most hazardous of all voyages.....through the help of an all-wise Providence and its wonderful guiding grace. There were countless perils from storms, uncharted rocks, the dangers of running aground,... floating icebergs, and other evils of savages.....*" (Ibid, Vol 3 page 1464).

Cook named the island "Providence", however the place was in fact Unalaska, at that time part of Russia. US President Ronald Reagan made reference to this in his "Remarks to Students and Faculty at Moscow State University" May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1988: "*.....Americans were members of (Captain James) Cook's voyage on an expedition searching for an Arctic passage; on the island of Unalaska, they came upon a party of Russians, who took them in, and together, with the native inhabitants, held a prayer service on the ice.*" (Page 881 Noebel D).

### A Controversy Surrounded Cook For Some Time

One writer at least takes Cook to task about some of the treatment of the natives on his third and fatal voyage. Certainly he does appear somewhat excessive in his punishment for petty thievery, something that was completely out of character for Cook\*. As I have already pointed out, to be used of God, or have a heart towards the Lord, does not mean these people never made a mistake. Have you ever made a mistake in your life? In every account of Cook's life I have ever read the authors point out that Cook's men respected, and in most cases idolised him. Most considered him as a father figure to them. After Cook met his untimely death in the Hawaiian Islands Lieutenant King wrote: "*I, as the others, had been so used to look up to (Cook) as our good genius, our safe conductor and as our superior being, that I could not suffer myself - I could not dare to think - he would fall by the hand of the Indians.*" George Gilbert wrote: "*appearing somewhat like a dream that we could not reconcile ourselves ...grief was visible in every countenance, some expressing it by tears...a number of the men were crying 'We have lost our father! Our father is gone!'*" (Hough R).

\* Surgeon-Admiral Sir James Watt, Medical Director General of the Navy (1972) believed that Cook at the time suffered the classic symptoms from a parasitic infection of the intestine: "*...including prolonged ill health, fatigue,... loss of interest, irritability, depression,... change of personality - all symptoms exhibited by Cook during his third voyage and faithfully recorded by eyewitnesses.*" ("Captain James Cook and His Times").

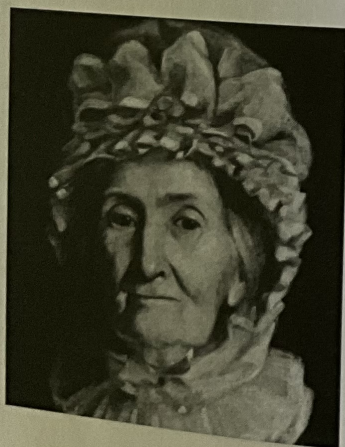


## An American Evangelist Blackened Cook's Name

Cook's name stands out as one of our nation's greatest heroes, yet to many Americans he was a detested figure. Why? Let me quote the book *"The Voyages of Captain Cook: 'In Hawaii Cook's memory was held in the greatest veneration until about 1850. Then a strange change occurred. An American missionary, the Rev. Sheldon Dibble, who was almost pathologically anti-British, decided that it was necessary ....to blacken the memory of the man whom their ancestors had deified. Without scruples he distorted facts, taught Hawaiian pastors and teachers to revile Cook's memory, and published his distortions as history. These were accepted and perpetuated ....until Cook was detested not only by Hawaiians but Americans as well. It was this century that a scholarly investigation revealed what Dibble had done and rehabilitated Cook's good name. Today in the islands there are memorials to Cook, and a plate on the actual spot where he was killed has been made a place of pilgrimage.'"* (Rienit R & T.).

## Man Of Honour, He Remained Faithful To His Wife

Cook displayed his godly character by remaining faithful to his wife: *"From the accounts of his shipmates, most of whom availed themselves of the favours offered by South Seas beauties, it would appear that James Cook remained faithful to his far-away wife, who was equally faithful at home.....it is touching that on those long voyages, when he alone kept himself 'clean and uncontaminated.....'"* (Murray-Oliver A, page 19).



Mrs  
Elizabeth  
Cook

## Cook's Wife Was A Committed Christian

It was Cook's wife who was the spiritual mainstay of his life. Although only supposition, one can confidently assume that she supported her husband in prayer during his long voyages of exploration. She remained a committed Christian for the rest of her life. As confirmation of this she presented her servant, Chas. Doswell with a book *"Prevailing Inadequate Conceptions of Practical Christianity"* by William Wilberforce in 1805. Today the book can be seen in the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington. Cook's autobiographer had this to say about her: *"Mrs Cook was a deeply religious woman. On four days a year, those marking the anniversaries of the death of her last three sons and her husband, she fasted and spent the day reading the Bible and meditating."* (Hough R, page 444).

Elizabeth Cook presented her husband which he carried with him on all of his voyages: *"He did carry a Bible on his voyages, though, from which he read the lessons when he took a service for the whole crew every Sunday."* (Murray-Oliver A, page 203). Cook obviously put the Bible to good use as many of the places he discovered bear Biblical names, such as **Trinity Bay, Providential Channel, Pentecost, Providence, the Whitsundays, Easter and Christmas Islands.**

## Cook Cared For His Wife And Family

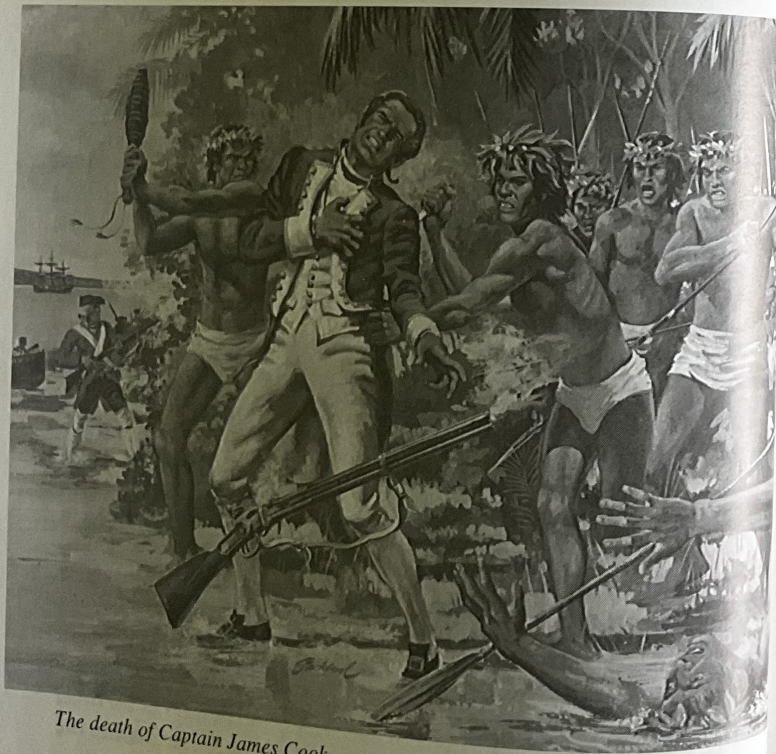
Cook wrote to Rev. Dr. Richard Kaye, chaplain to the King, and said: *"I cannot leave England without answering your very obliging favour... and thanking you for the kind tender of your service to Mrs Cook in my absence. I shall most certainly make an acknowledgment in the way you wish, if it please God to spare me..."* (Hough R).

After his second voyage of three years - which proved to be the greatest voyage of exploration in history - he returned home to England in 1771 to a hero's welcome. **Cook attributed his success, with the loss of only 4 out of 180 men, to the "care of Providence"**. (Historical records of NSW). He had claimed the Australian Continent, making it possible for a future Democratic, Christian, settlement to be established in the Asian/Pacific region. He had discovered and chartered Antarctica, many islands of the South Pacific and was the first to map New Zealand. **Cook remains one of the greatest explorers of all time, but he was also one of our founding fathers. If one examines the**



name of his ships they speak volumes of the spirit of the man, "Endeavour", "Resolution", "Discovery", and "Adventure". Beneath his statue in Whitby are inscribed the words that best describe the man. *"To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield."* That's the spirit of our founding fathers!

*"The death of this eminent and valuable man was a loss to mankind in general; and....to be deplored by every nation...that honours science, and loves the benevolent and amiable affections of the heart .....he will be revered."* (The Hon. J. Forbes, Admiral of the Fleet). It was Cook's voyages that inspired young William Carey to devote his life to taking the Gospel to the unevangelised nations. *"Because of this concern the greatest period of missionary endeavour occurred since apostolic times"*. Cook and his faithful wife Elizabeth are commemorated with memorial tablets in the Church of St. Andrew in Cambridge.



The death of Captain James Cook

## Joseph Banks

Joseph Banks sailed with Cook on his epic voyage of discovery and although, according to some writers he was a prideful, egocentric man, he had been raised with a godly influence upon his life. He was the son of a deeply devoted Christian mother who believed that the Bible was the only rule of faith and practice. Banks: *"believed that every consideration a man made of the works of the Almighty increased a man's admiration of his Creator"*. (History of Australia, page 46 Vol. 1). Interestingly Banks records an incident where natives were brought to a church service conducted by Cook: *"It being Sunday, Cook proposed that divine service be celebrated...."* (Ibid).

Upon their return to England, Banks suggested that a colony be formed here in Australia. Manning Clark brings out an interesting point in his book "The history of Australia". **He says that there was a godly man who, during a debate, stated that he believed that God had withheld the discovery of this continent (Australia) until this time in order that it would bring happiness to mankind and glory to God.**

## The Faith And Prayers Of Our Forefathers

*"The infidelity of the French Revolution represented the greatest challenge to Christianity since the time preceding Constantine....there had never been such a threat against the foundations of the Faith, against believing in the God revealed Scriptures. Voltaire made no idle boast when he said that Christianity would be forgotten within 30 days. Deism rode high in Europe, and so called Christian leaders either capitulated to infidelity or compromised with rationalism. The infant nation of America was swept by unbelief, so that the faithful trembled. The spiritual preparation for a world wide awakening began in Britain .....Believers of one denomination after another, including the evangelicals in the Church of England, began to pray for a revival of an extension of Christ's kingdom overseas."* ("Evangelical Awakenings" by J. Edwin Orr. Page1).

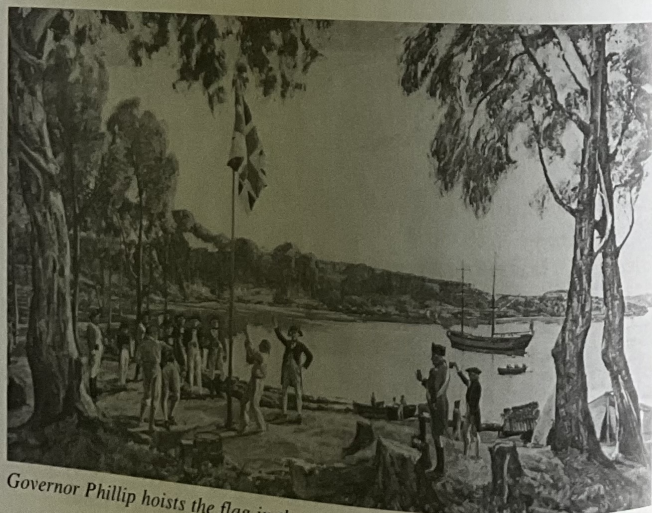
These prayers were answered and men like John Newton (Amazing Grace), the Wesley Brothers and William Wilberforce became the dominant influence in the church. On fire with the Gospel and anxious to share their faith with the new world, men like Richard Johnson and Samuel Marsden were soon aboard ships heading for Australia - they would carry the evangelical message of the Gospel to these new lands.



## The First Fleet Brought God's Word To Australia

On the 13th May 1787, eleven ships, making up what is known as the First Fleet sailed out of Plymouth and down the English Channel bound for Botany Bay. On board were 400 seamen, 750 convicts, 211 marines and officers, 27 officers wives, 32 children as well as the Governor and his staff of nine, just over 1000 people in total. Lt. Ralph Clark, a Royal Marine who dearly loved his wife, recorded this prayer: *"The Sirius made the signal for the whole fleet to get under way, O Gracious God send that we may put into Plymouth on our way down Channel that I may see my dear and fond affectionate Alicia and our sweet son, before I leave them for this long absence. Almighty God hear my prayer and grant me this request...O my fond heart, lay still for you may be disappointed, but I trust in God you will not."* (Hughes R).

On 20/1/1788, after a monumental voyage, the fleet arrived in Botany Bay. Judge Advocate Captain David Collins recorded that the Lord had blessed the voyage which had been completed without the loss of a single ship: *"Thus under the blessing of God we happily completed in eight months.....a voyage which, before it was undertaken, the mind had ventured to contemplate.....without meeting any accident in a fleet of eleven ships."* (Clark M. Abridged Edition page 3 - 4).



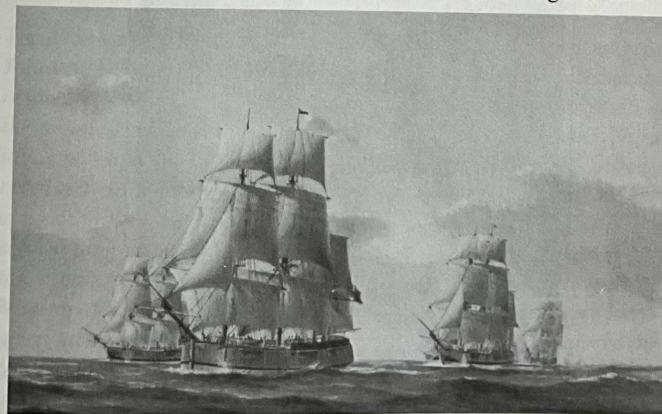
Governor Phillip hoists the flag in the new colony.

## A Land Dedicated To God

On the 13/2/1788 Governor Phillip, a man who believed strongly in the Judeo-Christian ethic (he believed that only a nation founded and governed by God's laws could be successful), accompanied by Lt. Ralph Clark, stepped ashore, opened the Bible and took an oath. The majority of historians have majored on our convict background and either ignore or deny our "Christian heritage". But it's time for us to emphasise the fact that some of this nation's first settlers believed in God and His Word! One writer claimed Phillip: *"drew no comfort from religion. He was a sceptic.."* (Kerr C & M page 16). How can some historians be so blind as to ignore such a monumental event as our founding fathers having taken an oath upon the Bible and sharing communion? This is the very foundation of our national heritage. Manning Clark even records the event: *"Clark was so carried away by the solemn occasion that he vowed to keep the table as long as he lived, it was the first time that ever the Lord's Supper was taken in this country."* (Clark M. Professor).

## The First Church Service in Australia

Convicts were not the only people that the First Fleet delivered to Australia, with them came a man of God to deliver the Word of God. He was the Rev. Richard Johnson: *"On Sunday 3rd February 1788, Johnson preached his first sermon under a great tree to a congregation of troops and convicts whose behaviour, according to one eye witness, was regular and attentive."* (Ibid Page 87 Vol. 1).

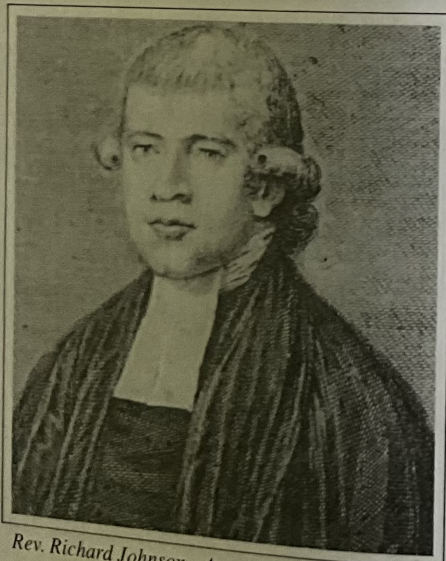


The First Fleet



The sermon he chose for the first message preached in this new nation was not something taken from some "religious" ceremony but from the Word of God, Psalm 116:12 *"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"*

"A Fascinating Look at Australia's Origins" records this about that first service: ".....this seems a rather inappropriate passage (of Scripture). Here were a group of rejected men and women in a strange land..... look at the Psalm, it is appropriate: 'The cords of death entangle me,...I was overcome by trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord: 'O Lord save me! For you, O Lord have delivered my soul from death, .....that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living. How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord' When we read these words through the convicts eyes they are very relevant indeed. They had suffered but the ships had not gone down.....the Psalm concluded with a vow of obedience to the Lord.... And so the Gospel was planted in the South Land of the Holy Spirit." (Chant B). Johnson gathered a group of believers around him to pray, it was a time to thank God for their safe deliverance. God's Word was being preached in the South Land of the Holy Spirit.



Rev. Richard Johnson - Australia's First Preacher

## Richard Johnson - Australia's First Preacher

The Rev. Johnson was a man of God with a burning passion for souls, a product of the evangelical revival in England. He was a man who would ensure that the nation would be founded on Evangelical Christianity. Johnson was the first of a number of ministers: *"....through whose work evangelical Christianity dominated the religious life of Protestant Christianity in Australia throughout the whole of the nineteenth century."* (Clark M. Professor, A Short History).

*"Richard Johnson...was the first Chaplain and he sailed with the First Fleet; he had been chosen for the task by the most trusted Evangelical leaders in England; and he had the faith and courage to venture into the unknown as a servant of Christ and His Gospel .....His name must be held in honour to the end of time as the pioneer and pathfinder for the Church and the Gospel in New South Wales."* (Macintosh N, page 9).

One of the men who was influential in selecting Johnson was Reverend John Newton, the man who wrote that great hymn "Amazing Grace". Newton in turn had been strongly influenced by John and Charles Wesley. Newton had been involved in the slave trade, and at one stage spent fifteen months as a slave himself, as the servant of a white slave-trader in Africa. He escaped and became Master of a slave ship but at the age of 25 he accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour. (Ibid, page 20).

The decision to travel to the other side of the world weighed heavily on Johnson. He wrote: *"...the idea of leaving my parents, friends and the respectful connections... the dangers of the sea; the description of the people I was going with...To the very ends of the earth.. These ideas so impressed my mind with fear and terror that I.....almost resolved, to decline the offer. But on the other hand; when I consider...the hopes and prospects of being rendered useful in the reformation of those poor and abandoned people, the power and the promises of God to protect me in any place... I followed the leading of Providence; and the prospects of a glorious reward hereafter, laid up in heaven for God's faithful servants..... induced me to give my free consent to enter this hazardous expedition."* (Ibid, page 37).



## He Was A Man Filled With God's Love

Johnson had such a heart for the convicts, many of them prostitutes and thieves, that he could be heard alone at night crying out to God on their behalf. Johnson pleaded with the Lord that he might have the gift, the ability and anointing to lead these people to Christ. Consequently God answered that prayer and many did accept Jesus as their Lord: "And one of the convicts from the Fleet later wrote in a letter home, 'I believe few of the sick would recover if it was not for the kindness of the Rev. Johnson, whose assistance out of his own stores makes him the physician both of soul and body.'" (Ibid).

Johnson was certainly no wimp and he showed remarkable courage and strength for such a young man thrust into a completely new and hostile environment. He suffered from severe illness, as well as the wrath and obstructions from Governor Grose. The nation's first preacher often had to travel many kilometres on horseback, by boat or by foot, in all kinds of weather. He also had to contend with abuse and hindrances from the soldiers, shortages of food and often having to rise as early as four a.m. to preach. After waiting years for government assistance the frustrated young preacher resorted to building the sanctuary with his own hands.

The following extract from his book, written in 1792, clearly presents the gospel message: "All these inestimable blessings are the fruits and effects of the death and mediation of Jesus Christ. His great design in coming into the world was to seek and save those who are lost; he came from heaven, that he might raise us to those holy and happy mansions; he endured the curse, that we might inherit the blessing; he bore the cross, that we might live; he died, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." (Ibid).

Johnson was a man with a deep sense of calling, a great love of the Bible, a man of prayer, and a man of compassion. He often visited the convicts and even took an Aboriginal girl, who had contracted smallpox, into his home for several months. Despite the lack of response from the convicts, he never gave up hope and continued to proclaim the Gospel until the day he left: "I trust I have not laboured wholly in vain, and in spite of all opposition and obstacles, God will make bare his holy arm in the conversion and salvation of the souls of men..." (Ibid).

## He Was A Man Of God's Word

Barry Chant writes in "A Fascinating Look at Australia's Origins": "It is tempting to draw a contrast between our irreligious settlers and those Pilgrim Fathers who settled the United States. But in fact, hundreds of copies of Scripture were landed here in 1788 thanks to Richard Johnson.. he brought 100 Bibles, 400 Testaments and 500 Psalters, 100 Osterwald's Necessity for reading the Scriptures, 25 Plain Exhortations to prisoners, 200 Sermons on the Mount, 200 Exercises against Lying, 50 Woodward's Caution to Swearers, 200 Christian Soldiers.. Some sold the Bibles, others used the paper for smoking. But the Word did go out... it was providential that Johnson was the first religious figure to come to this land. The Portugese, the Dutch and the French all sailed around it, touched it ..prior to Cook,... they all seemed to head for the great south land but then sailed around it!... It almost looks as though an unseen hand redirected those little vessels to other lands. It cannot be coincidence. I believe God had a sovereign purpose for Australia..... it was the simple evangelistic gospel that He intended to be proclaimed in this land!.. the truth is that the message young Johnson brought to Pt. Jackson was the nearest to the New Testament that anyone of his day is likely to have proclaimed." (Chant B).

Johnson continued: "I intreat you... to read the word of God carefully. Many of you have had Bibles.. given to you...Begin the day with prayer: and..if you find it impracticable to meditate or pray, from the interruptions you are exposed to....If you have families, you should call them together, and pray with them, and for them. There are many promises made to worshipping families, and those who, like Abraham, endeavour to teach their children and household to know and serve the Lord. (Gen 17:19 Prov. 3:33)." (Macintosh N).

## Johnson Was A Man Of Hope And Prayer

"Johnson believed that he was where God 'aims and intends me to be' and he was determined by the Grace of God...to go on in the discharge of my duty, till I can hold out no longer." (Ibid, p 61).

He later wrote: "I wish to see the heathen brought to knowledge of Christianity and hope to see....when these shall be given for our Lord's heritage and the uttermost parts of the earth for His



possession.....when the heathen shall be given to the Lord Jesus for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession, when all the ends of the earth shall believe and rejoice in the salvation of God. Psalm 2:9; 98:3." (Ibid, page 73).

*"Johnson had a firm belief that the gospel would triumph in the earth and that all the heathen would turn to the Lord! From the very beginning, God's sovereign purpose has been clear. There is a destiny for this nation." (Ibid, page 53).*

In fact Johnson was a preacher who would be acceptable today in any of our modern Bible believing churches: *"This Gospel... proposes a free gracious pardon to the guilty, cleansing to the polluted, healing to the sick, happiness to the miserable, light for those who sit in darkness, strength for the weak, food for the hungry and life for the dead."* (Ibid, page 53). *"Johnson had an opportunity ...To pray for the prosperity of the colony: on June 9th 1790 a special service was held attended by 'every person in the colony'.... The Chaplain preached a sermon 'at once so full of gratitude and solemnity' on the text 'By me kings reign'. (Proverbs 8:15)."* (Ibid, page 50).



*The first Church in Australia*

## **The First Church in Australia**

*"The first building of worship was erected by Richard Johnson, first Chaplain, at his own expense....and in a great measure with his own hands. The design was cruciform, the nave was seventy-three feet long by fifteen broad....It was built of wattle and cabbage palms. The interstices between the slender tree-trunks were filled in with a kind of plaster, and the roof was thatched. The building, together with the school, cost no more than 67 pounds..It stood near what is now Macquarie Place, Sydney and used to be called the "wattle and daub" church.. Begun in 1793, it was not finished till two years afterwards. The delay due to the indifference and negligence of the Government. In consequence.. of Government enforcing attendance, the church was burnt down by convicts in 1798."* (Hassall Rev. J).

## **Samuel Marsden - Missionary Of Faith**

Samuel Marsden came to Australia to accept the position of assistant to Richard Johnson. His mission was not just to evangelise the Aborigines and the colonists, but also for the nations of the South Sea: *"Marsden belonged to the same evangelical wing in the Church of England as the Reverend Richard Johnson. Before completing his degree, God appeared to be opening the way for Marsden to carry the Gospel of His son to distant lands."* (Clark Professor M).



*Rev. Samuel Marsden as a young man*



According to his biographer S. M. Johnstone, Marsden was: "a strong willed, courageous, conscientious personality, a born organizer with a passion for work, devotion to his duty, a leader of men and a grand old man." He also loved God's Word: "he tells us of the sources of consolation: meditation upon the Scriptures..." (Johnstone S. M.). "Marsden was a man of faith, on the long voyage to Australia the ship was struck by a violent storm, during which his wife gave birth to a daughter. Despite the ferocity of the storm and the fact that his family were all drenched by the huge seas, with their lives in danger, he knelt down and gave thanks to his Lord for their deliverance. He wrote: 'In the midst of all difficulties, God has always blessed my basket and my store, and prospered me in all that I have set my hand unto.'" (Clark Professor M, page 253, Vol.1).

On his arrival in Sydney in 1794 he was appalled by the vice and depravity of the convicts: "He was shocked to find that the convicts condemned to death were greatly alarmed, and had no idea of a God of grace and mercy." (Ibid). But Marsden was a visionary. He saw the hand of God in what was happening in Australia: "Marsden, reminded them.....while in the sight of the unwise the decision to found a settlement at Botany Bay was motivated by the need to find a receptacle for the criminal population of Britain, He who governed the universe had another object in view:... the time had drawn near for the heathen nations of the South Seas to be favoured with the knowledge of divine revelation." (Ibid).

### He Believed Australia Was Chosen Of God

Johnson and Marsden passionately believed in Australia, that the nation had a God ordained destiny: "Marsden believed Australians had been chosen by the Lord to carry the Word of God through evangelism to the surrounding nations. He showed the way." (Ibid). Marsden wrote: "I wish to be found faithful to act like a Christian and Minister... It is my opinion that God will ere long visit New South Wales with His heavenly Grace. Out of these stones He will raise up children unto Abraham....." (Hassall Rev. J).

His Grandson (the first Australian born Preacher) records: "Mr. Marsden..... was no common man, but one raised by the Almighty to fulfil His purposes, and to leave blessings behind him for

generations to come... He knew not what fear was...that no-one was more beloved and esteemed by the upright and conscientious part of the colonists than the Rev. Samuel Marsden." (Ibid).

### Apostle To New Zealand

Marsden sailed to New Zealand in obedience to what he believed was the calling of the Lord: "The crowning work of Marsden's life, which of itself would make certain that his name will never die, is the introduction of Christianity into New Zealand. His heart and soul was in the evangelization of that country, its name was on his dying lips. It is not without cause that he has been called 'The Apostle of New Zealand... He knew the Maori were cannibals, a savage race, full of superstition, and wholly under the power and influence of the prince of darkness. There was only one remedy which could effectually free them from their cruel spiritual bondage.... and that was the gospel of a crucified saviour.'" (Clark Professor M).

I recently visited the spot where Marsden landed. It is marked by a large stone cross. There, almost 200 years ago, Marsden and his wife slept on the beach surrounded by Maori warriors, their menacing war spears impaled in the sand. As I stood where one of my spiritual forefathers had conducted the nation's first Church service on Christmas Day 1814, I had to admire the man's courage and faith.



Author and monument at site of Marsden's landing



Manning Clark records the scene: *"Surrounded by cannibals, who had massacred and devoured his countrymen, Marsden wondered at the mysteries of Providence.....As Marsden began the service by singing the Old 100th Psalm a solemn silence prevailed.....Marsden preached to them, taking for his text the tenth verse of the second chapter of St Luke's gospel: 'Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy.....Every night he went down on his knees to ask the father of mercies to crown his feeble efforts in New Zealand for the evangelization of the Maori, adding his hope that all Christian societies might unite in love and in one body against the prince of darkness.'*" (Clark Professor M).

Marsden concludes his accounts of the service in these words: *"In this manner the Gospel has been introduced into New Zealand; and I fervently pray that the glory of it may never depart from its inhabitants till time shall be no more."* (Johnstone S. M, page 129). The day concluded with Holy communion on board the ship "Active".

We get some idea of the love and devotion Marsden held for the Maori (which they returned) from this passage: *"...For the last time, in 1837, Marsden, now in his 73rd year, made a visit to New Zealand.....upon his landing hundreds of natives flocked to the beach to meet him. One chief, anxious to have a quiet conversation with him about religion, and unable to get near him,.....followed him forty miles...seventy others accompanied him to have the chance of being near their life-long friend. On another occasion many natives refused to leave his presence..."* (Ibid).

### His Prayer For The Holy Spirit To Be Poured Out

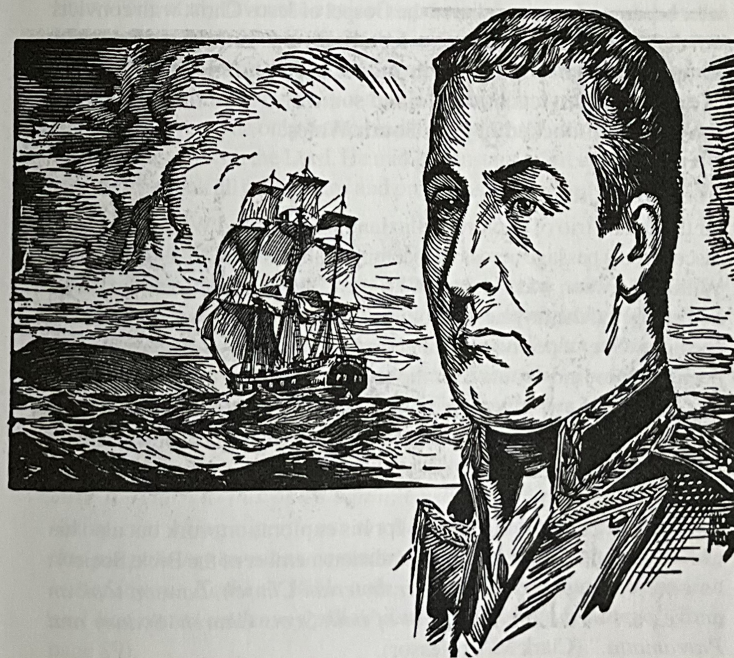
A letter from 1819 to a friend shows just how earnest this great man was to see the Lord move. *"I hoped that they would have a real Pentecost and that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh above measure, so that the Missionaries may ask: 'Can any man forbid water that these shall not be baptised, who have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?'"*

Rev. Hassall wrote: *"I apprehend nothing like this has occurred since the Apostles' days."* (Hassall J).

After Marsden died this report came back from New Zealand: *"The Missionaries have secured the entire confidence of the natives, and their influence is extending wherever their names (Marsden's name) have been heard. The country is rapidly becoming Christian..... Many are dedicated Christians; many more are influenced in their conduct by Christian precepts....but for Marsden it can be justly claimed that he was no less the Founder of the Anglican Mission to the Aborigines than he was the Apostle of New Zealand."* (Ibid).

The Rev. H. Stiles paid this honour to Marsden: *"as Luther had been sent to Germany, Knox to Scotland.....to unfold His glorious gospel, when those countries were hidden in darkness, so no less truly was Samuel Marsden raised to diffuse the light of the same gospel upon the darkness of heathen sin in New Zealand, and upon the darkness of human depravity in early Australia."* (Clark M. Professor).

### The Early Explorers -Matthew Flinders (1774-1814)





Matthew Flinders was one of the world's most accomplished navigators and hydrographers and at the age of 24 he was the youngest Captain in the Royal Navy, with the exception of Admiral Lord Nelson. Flinders was the first man to circumnavigate Australia and it was he who suggested the name "Australia", which was adopted in 1824. His objective was: *"to make so accurate an investigation of the shores of "Terra Australis" that no future voyage.. should be necessary...I pursued and, with the blessing of God, nothing of importance would be left for future discovers ..."* (Scott E. Sir, Professor).

Flinders drew chart so accurate that they were used for many years after his death. He will be fondly remembered as a man of integrity, determination, courage, faithfulness in marriage and for proving that Australia was an island.

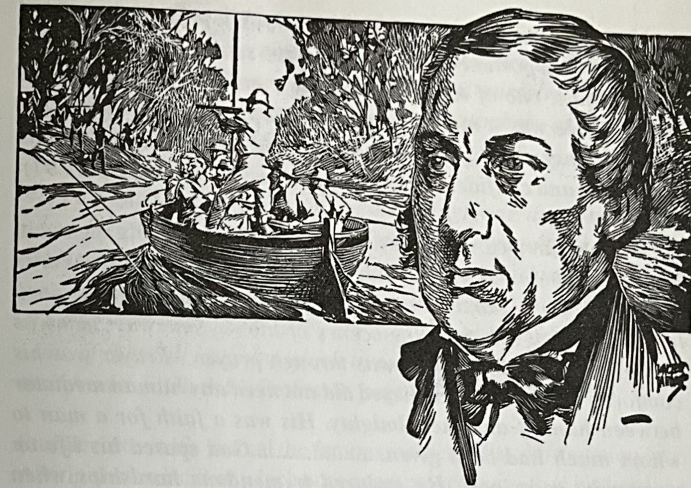
### Other Men Of God Continued The Work

Around 1812 a Royal Navy ships' surgeon, Colin Arnott Browning, who later became a preacher, shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with convicts on their way to Australia. **No less than one hundred and sixty accepted the Lord out of a contingent of two hundred and thirty! Most of the convicts had obtained some degree of literacy by the time the ship docked in New South Wales!**

### William Lawson

Of the famed trio of explorers Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, who discovered a passage across the seemingly impassable Blue Mountains, William Lawson was a devout Christian. The rugged mountain range had restricted the tiny new colony to a virtual toe hold around Sydney Harbour. Over a period of years countless unsuccessful attempts had been made to find a route over the mountains, but it was not until 1813 that Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth eventually pioneered a path. Their discovery enabled the settlers to reach the rich hinterland and establish farms and towns.

Lawson is not only remembered for his exploration work but also his Christian commitment, being a foundation member of the Bible Society: *"a generous supporter of the Presbyterian Church, Lawson took an active part in the establishment of both Scots Church, Sydney and Parramatta."* (Clark M. Professor).



### Captain Charles Sturt - Man Of Faith And Prayer

Sturt is one of my favourite explorers, possibly because I grew up on the Murray River and some of my fondest memories were of roaming over the same territory where this great man ventured. Few Australians are aware that Sturt was not only a man of great courage but also one of faith and prayer. One only has to read the explorer's writings to pick up his relationship with the Lord. He makes constant references to his faith and how he took all of his plans and problems to the Lord in prayer.

### Sturt "Rested On God's Word"

*"Sturt, like most Australian explorers faced with a hostile environment, leaned hourly on God's mercy. At night he slept with a Bible that had belonged to his father-in-law under his pillow. When he had to jettison almost all of his possessions in the remote outback, he refused to get rid of his Bible....."* (Waterhouse J).

Sturt records the story about his Bible in a letter to his wife: *"As I should have to return to this place again, I was determined on burying or hiding everything superfluous to relieve the horses....I put aside for this purpose my own box containing many valuable things, taking out of it your Father's Bible only, which has been my companion and has rested under my pillow during the whole journey."* (Ibid, page 89).



Manning Clark had this to say about the man: "The person who opened up the southern portion of Australia for free settlement was Captain Charles Sturt, one of Australia's greatest and most heroic inland explorers. He was a man of courage and prayer, for "in many a scene of danger, of difficulty, and of sorrow he had risen from his knees calm and confident." (Clark M. Professor, Volume 2 page 97).

"In 1827 he arrived in Sydney with a detachment of his regiment. He was a man on whom the gods seemed to have smiled as he was both monstrously handsome and lovable. A simple faith sustained him through all the changing scenes of life: by one way only was peace to be found, and that was through prayer... Prayer was his comforter... A man who believed did not need any human mediator between himself and the Almighty. His was a faith for a man to whom much had been given.....God spared his life on numerous occasions. He endured tremendous hardships when facing the harshness of the Australian inland, and, as Sturt completed his exploration with his men, who had complete confidence in and admiration for him, he 'went down on his knees and with tears of joy offered his thanks to Almighty God.'" (Ibid).

"Sturt loved the majesty of the Australian bush and often 'praised his God that He had done such wondrous things' Sturt ..prophesied that the men of the.....Australian colonies would emulate America. He urged them to convince the aborigine that the white man was coming as a brother.....not to give the aborigine trifling presents but to protect him against violence and aggression, until that day when as children of the same heavenly father, they all learned to look at each other with love and charity." (Ibid, Vol. 3 p.46).

"Through prayer and study of his Bible, Sturt found the wisdom and strength to endure, and peace and courage even in times of great danger. (Kotlowski E).

In 1829 Sturt made a second expedition to locate the mouth of the Darling and Murrumbidgee rivers. Humbly committing the safety of his party to the protection of Almighty God. He wrote: "Something more powerful than human foresight or prudence, appeared to avert the calamities and dangers with which I and my companions were

so frequently threatened: and had it not been for the guidance and protection we received from the Providence of that good and all-wise Being to whose care we committed ourselves, we should, ere this, have ceased to rank among the numbers of His earthly creatures". (Sturt C. Captain).

"They came to the Murrumbidgee near Jugigong in countryside of unsurpassing beauty where Sturt lifted up his eyes unto the hills and praised his God that he had done such wondrous things... And the men warming to a man with such astonishment of heart, such a lack of guile, such innocence, such enthusiasm, looked at each other, with some of that still laughter which lived so abundantly in the heart of their leader." (Clark M. Professor, pages 98-99 Vol. 2).

Sturt records in his journal the famous incident of a confrontation with Aborigines, an incident which once again proved his faith in his Lord. As they travelled down the Murray River, hundreds of hostile Aborigines - painted white and brandishing spears - appeared on the river banks. The explorers tried desperately to appear non-threatening but only succeeded into stirring the natives even further, to the place where they raised their spears and appeared determined to attack: "As we sailed down the reach, we observed a vast concourse of natives....., and on nearer approach we heard their war-song. But remarked that they were painted and armed as they are, prior to engaging in deadly conflict. Notwithstanding these outward signs of hostility.....I continued to steer for the bank on which they were collected .....An attempt to land would only be attended with loss of life. The natives seemed determined to resist it. We approached so near that they held their spears quivering in their grasp ready to hurl. They were painted in various ways. Some who marked their ribs, and thighs, and faces with a white pigment, looked like skeletons, others were daubed over with red and yellow ochre.....A dead silence prevailed amongst the first ranks, but those in the background, as well as the women, who carried supplies of darts, and who appeared to have had a bucket of white-wash capsized over their heads, were extremely clamorous. As I did not wish a conflict with these people, I lowered my sail....Disappointed in their anticipations, the natives ran along the banks of the river, endeavouring to secure an aim at us; but, unable to throw with certainty, in consequence of the onward





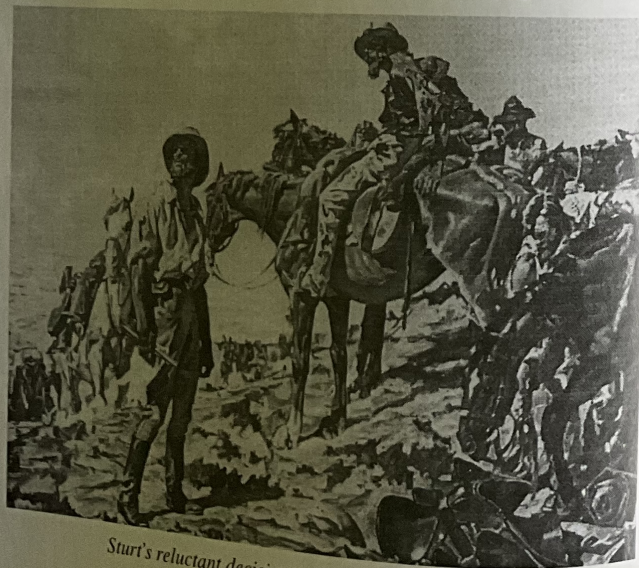
motions of the boat, they flung themselves into the most extravagant attitudes, and worked themselves into a state of frenzy by loud and vehement shouting...With...an extreme reluctance to take away life, I foresaw that it would be impossible any longer to avoid an engagement, yet with such fearful numbers against us... I stood up and made signs to the natives to desist; but without success. I took up my gun....A few seconds more would have closed the life of the nearest of the savages...for I was determined to take deadly aim, in hopes that the fall of one man might save the lives of many. But at the very moment ...another party of blacks had made their appearance....I observed four men at their top speed. The foremost of them threw himself from a considerable height into the water. He...stood in front of the savage, against whom my aim had been directed. Seizing him by the throat, he pushed him backwards, and forcing all who were in the water upon the bank....At one moment he pointed to the boat, at another shaking his clenched fist in the faces of the most forward. **For my own part I was overwhelmed with astonishment, and in truth stunned; so unexpected, and so strikingly providential, had been our escape....**All wrangling ceased, and they came swimming over to us like a parcel of seals. Thus in less than a quarter of an hour....when we were on the point of a bloody fray.....we were peacefully surrounded by the hundreds who had so lately threatened us with destruction;**and of the almost miraculous intervention of Providence in our favour. There could not have been less than six hundred natives...But this was not the only occasion upon which the merciful superintendence of that Providence to which we humbly committed ourselves, was strikingly manifested.**" (Ibid).

After the mammoth expedition - rowing almost 1000 miles down the Murray River through uncharted territory - the party faced the near impossible task of rowing back upstream against the strong current. Their story is one of the most heroic episodes in Australia's colourful history. Despite their fatigue and meagre diet the explorers were able to make the trip in 23 days, three days less than it had taken to row down the Murray with the current! "Their return was a journey of unmeasured hardship. The exhausted and hungry men pulled their oars against the current of the mighty river. **Sturt ever trustful that a benign Providence watched over them**". (Clark M, page 131 Abridged Edition).



Sturt remained calm throughout the epic ordeal, never wavering in his faith and confidence that the Lord would lead them back home again. When they finally arrived back in Sydney, six months after they had set out on the epic journey it is recorded: *"So Sturt at journey's end went down on his knees, and with tears of joy offered his thanks to Almighty God."* (Clark M. Professor, Page 101, Vol. 2).

In 1845 Sturt was exploring again, setting out from Adelaide with fifteen men, six carts, a boat and two hundred sheep to enter the uncharted deserted heart of Australia. The party included J. Poole (second in command), J.H. Browne (surgeon), John McDouall Stuart and twelve others. The journey, a quest to find an inland sea, was to bring Sturt great fame and the medal of The Royal Geographical Society. On reaching Moorundie, he records: *"Lastly I observed that as the men might now consider that they were about to commence a journey from which no one knew who would be permitted to return, I thought it was a duty they owed to themselves, to ask the guidance and support of that Power which could alone conduct them in safety through it, and having read to them a short prayer which I had prepared for the occasion to which I added the Lord's Prayer, I intimated to Mr Poole that he was at liberty to proceed..."* (Sturt C. Captain page 21).



Sturt's reluctant decision to return - by Ivor Hele

*"But if amidst difficulties and disappointments of no common description, I was led to doubt the wisdom of Providence, I was wrong. The course of events has abundantly shewn how presumptuous it is in man to question the arrangements of the All-wise Power..."* (Ibid).

The party of explorers, including Sturt himself, suffered terribly in the blistering Australian desert. Sturt's gums were swollen from scurvy, his nose bled constantly and he had violent headaches. His assistant Poole lost the use of his legs and his skin turned black with large pieces of flesh hanging from the roof of his mouth. The heat was intolerable and drought continued without a single drop of rain falling. Sturt himself had this to say in his records: *"A few days after we had settled ourselves at the Depot, Mr. Browne had a serious attack of illness, that might have proved fatal; but it pleased God to restore him..."* (Fitzpatrick K).

Sturt and his men were marooned at Strzelecki Creek. There they had permanent water, but try as they might they could not find water in the direction of the interior. Sturt wrote: *"Providence had, in all its wise purpose, guided us to the only spot, in that wide-spread desert, where our wants could have been permanently supplied, but had there stayed our further progress into a region that almost appears to be forbidden ground."* (Ibid, page 21). *"...week after week the sun arose and set, and every cloud that arose on the horizon was beat back by a moon as bright and I almost said as hot as the sun itself. (After six months) we had nothing to engage the attention... Nothing could exceed the desolation around us. Not a herb or flower was seen but the land was perfectly bare and scorched. The water we were drinking became putrid and diseased itself."* (Ibid). *"Sturt wrote to his wife Charlotte: 'I trust God will permit my return, and this severe trial will issue in our final good. Such at all events is my prayer, my daily prayer to the fountain of All Mercy.'"* (Ibid).

The following words are from the pen of this famous explorer who was devoted to his Lord Jesus Christ, including a quote taken from the famous theologian Charles Spurgeon: *"I intend the writing of the journal to be my Sunday's occupation and...I have determined to add something to you every succeeding Sabbath. You will then know that I have ever thought of you on that day, and it may be that our*



*united prayers will yet be heard. Prosperity, Dearest, was the blessing of the Old Testament, Adversity is the blessing of the New, and the knowledge of this should be a useful lesson to us, and if it please GOD to permit my return to you.*" (Sturt C. Captain, page 15).

Sturt was not the only devoted Christian in his party, Daniel George Brock writes in his book: "To the desert with Sturt": *"I went to take farewell of my wife and son. Delia and myself retired and commended each other to the care and keeping of our Heavenly Father."* (Page 3).

Brock's faith in the Lord shows again: *"I am happy contemplating the possibility of an untimely issue in the coming affray, the happiness arising from the conviction of my interest in Jesus, but when I think of my wife and child, a sickness of soul comes over me, but I trust in the promise of my Heavenly Father, and can without wavering doubt exclaim, 'Not my will but thine be done.'*" (Ibid Page 28).

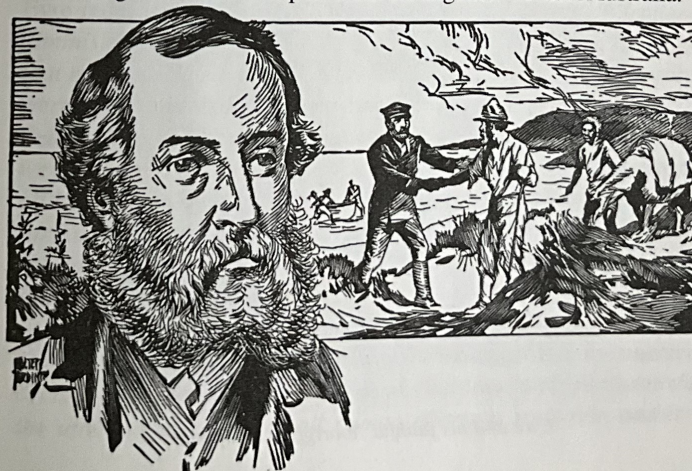
Facing a horrific death in the desert Brock's Christian faith again shines through in his writings: *"Having during the night got into a sweat, I felt this morning better, but still very sick - and dreadfully depressed in spirits.... The article of death has no terrors; although I am an unfaithful, sinful creature, the blood of Jesus cleanses me from all sin - yet the mind recoils in contemplating the passage to the tomb..... the association, the indifference - 'if you live, you live; if you die, it will be a feed for the wild dogs' - but I will not give way to this. God is all sufficient - Oh may I abide in His Love."* (Ibid Page 59).

Sturt wrote of Australia: *"I shall hope to return to my adopted home, and to make it my resting place between this world and the next. I left the province with storm-clouds overhanging it, and sunk in adversity. When I returned, the sun of prosperity was shining on it, and every heart was glad. Providence (the Lord) had rewarded a people who had borne their reverses with singular firmness and magnanimity. Their harvest fields were bowed down with the weight of grain: their pastoral pursuits were prosperous: the hills were yielding forth their mineral wealth, and peace and prosperity prevailed over the land. May the inhabitants of South Australia continue to receive the protection of the Almighty power, on whose will the existence of nations and that of individuals depends."* (Sturt C. Capt).

This great Christian explorer is one of God's "History Makers". He had travelled over 3000 miles through some of the harshest, unknown and hostile territory and survived. *"Sturt might be called the beloved explorer, he was revered by all his fellow explorers save Mitchell, to whom appreciation of the feats of his rivals did not come easily."* (Fitzpatrick K). Even the hardy explorer John McDouall Stuart, often referred to as "the king of Australian explorers" paid homage to his old leader when he named Central Mount Stuart in his name, the mountain later being renamed after its discoverer. Sturt's journals and writings leave us documented evidence of his great discoveries as well as his devout faith in Jesus Christ his Lord. He constantly recognised the Providential care and intervention of God and was a model of Christian character. Baron Van Muelle, writing in 1865, described him as "the greatest explorer" and commented: *"One of his qualifications was he was a gentleman, always kind and considerate of those working with him. He inspired others such as Leichardt and Eyre by his great example. He remained throughout his life an English Tory gentleman with an unshakable faith in God."* (Clark M. Professor).

### Edward John Eyre (1815-1901)

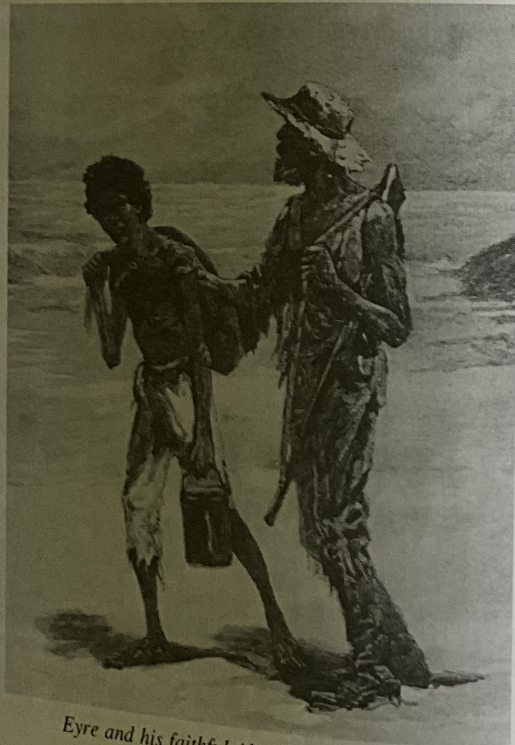
Eyre, the son of an Anglican preacher the Rev. Anthony Eyre, had planned a career in the British Army, but the Lord had other ideas for this famous Australian explorer. He immigrated to Australia when he was 17 years old where he gained experience as a cattle and sheep drover before embarking on a series of explorations throughout Western Australia.





Eyre was the first man to cross Australia from east to west, travelling across the Nullarbor Plain from Adelaide to Albany. This great man was another of our founding fathers who loved the Lord and frequently acknowledged His help in supplying their needs and preserving their lives. He wrote of the Lord in his journal: ***"In His mercy and protection alone our safety could now ever be hoped for"***. (Waterhouse J).

In 1840, because of his experience as a bush man, he was chosen to lead an expedition. The party consisted of six white men, an Aborigine, thirteen horses, forty sheep and enough supplies to last them three months. They planned to be met at Spencer Gulf by a ship with more supplies. Eyre travelled westward across what is now known as Eyre Peninsula and along the coast. The harsh conditions and lack of water forced him to send all of the members of his party back to Adelaide, except for Baxter, Wylie and two other Aborigines.



*Eyre and his faithful Aboriginal companion*

Eyre thought that a smaller party would have more chance of success. He wrote in his journal: *"It was impossible for us to be insensible to the isolated and hazardous position we were in; but this very feeling only nerved and stimulated us the more in our exertions, to accomplish the duty we had engaged in; the result we humbly left to that Almighty Being who guided and guarded us hitherto, amidst all our difficulties, and in all our wanderings, and who, whatever he might ordain, would undoubtedly order everything for the best...."* (Eyre Edward J).

The four men left Fowlers Bay with eleven pack horses and six sheep, facing a journey of 1300 kilometres through harsh desolate country. The Nullarbor Plain is a harsh place, a "moonscape", with few trees and consequently little shade from the fierce heat of the sun. The other major problem in the desert was a lack of water and very few ways to reach the sea because of the huge cliffs. In fact water would prove to be the party's greatest need, almost bringing about their undoing until they came upon some wells dug by the Aborigines. The water they found was at the present site of Eucla on the border of South Australia and Western Australia. After resting for six days, they travelled on, keeping close to the beach. Water once again became scarce and the Aborigines showed them how to break off the roots of gum trees and suck them to relieve their thirst. The party used sponges to collect early morning dew from leaves. Food was becoming scarce so they killed a sick horse for food.

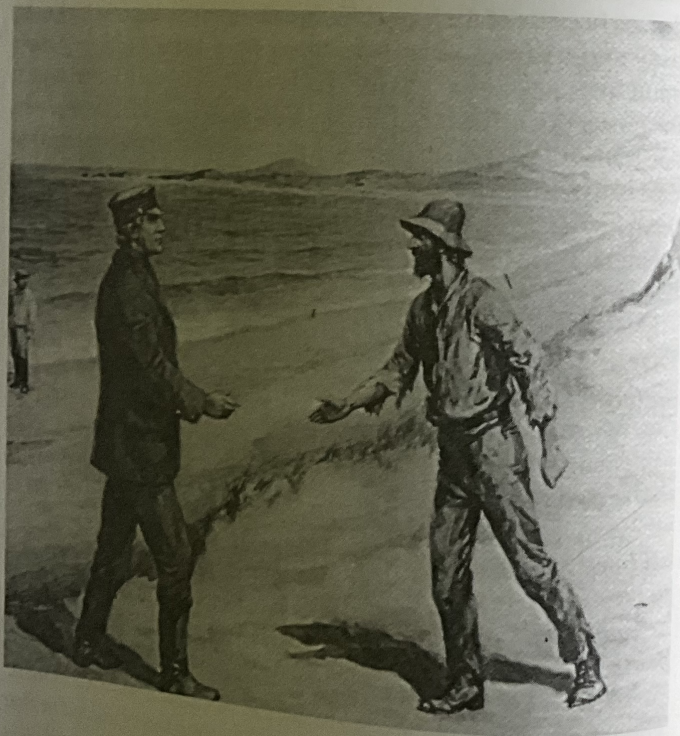
Eyre records: *"Day by day our prospects of success had gradually diminished; our horses had become reduced to so dreadful a state that many had died, and all were likely to do so soon; we ourselves were weak and exhausted by fatigue, and it appeared impossible that either could have gone many miles further. In this last extremity we had been relieved. That gracious God, without whose assistance all hope of safety had been in vain, had heard our earnest prayers for his aid, and I trust that in our deliverance we recognized and acknowledged with sincerity and thankfulness his guiding and protecting hand."* (Ibid).

Then they found water six feet below the sand and Eyre commented: *"It is in circumstances only such as we had been lately placed in that the utter hopelessness of all human efforts is truly felt, and it is*



when relieved from such a situation that the hand of a directing and beneficent Being appears most plainly discernible, fulfilling those gracious promises which he had made, to hear them that call upon Him in the day of trouble (Isaiah 41:17-18, 43:19)." (Ibid).

The Scriptures quoted by Eyre reveal the true heart of the man: "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water." (Ibid) "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." (Ibid).



Eyre is greeted by Captain Rossiter of the "Mississippi"

The men had suffered terribly but imagine how the horses must have been - they had gone seven days without a single drop of water! The party were about half way between Fowlers Bay and King Georges Sound in the rugged desert country of The Great Australian Bight. One night while Eyre was keeping watch he heard a gun blast and raced back to camp to find that two of the Aborigines had murdered Baxter and had disappeared with most of the supplies and firearms. Eyre noted in his journal: "Upon reaching the encampment. I was horror struck to find my poor overseer lying on the ground, weltering in his blood, and in the last agonies of his death... The frightful, appalling truth now burst upon me, that I was alone in the desert. In the dead of night, in the wildest and most inhospitable wastes of Australia, with the fierce wind raging in unison with the violent scene before me, I was left, with a single native, whose fidelity I could not rely upon, and for aught I knew might be in league with the other two, who perhaps were even now, lurking about with a view of taking away my life as they had done that of the overseer." (Ibid).

As Eyre meditated on the situation some more it began to dawn on him that the Lord had watched over and protected his life: "Trifling as the arrangements of the watches might seem, and unimportant as I thought it at the time, whether I undertook the first or the second, yet was my choice, in this respect, the means under God's Providence of my life being saved....." (Ibid).

Now came the task of surviving: "Six hundred miles (1000 kilometres) of country had to be traversed, before I could hope to obtain the slightest aid or assistance of any kind, whilst I knew not that a single drop of water or an ounce of flour had been left by these murderers....With an aching heart, and in most pain reflections, I passed this dreadful night... April 30 - At last, by God's blessing, daylight dawned once more, but sad and heart rending was the scene it presented to my view. We had nothing to rely upon but our own exertions and perseverance, humbly trusting that the great and merciful God who had hitherto guarded and guided us in safety would not desert us now." (Ibid).

Eyre and one faithful Aborigine trudged on and it was seven days before they found a native waterhole. They survived by killing and eating



kangaroos. In June 1841, one month later, the couple - almost dead from exposure, thirst and hunger - staggered into Thistle Cove where they were astounded to find a French whaler, the "Mississippi", in the harbour. Lighting a fire, the explorer and his Aboriginal companion were able to attract the attention of the French sailors and were soon enjoying the hospitality of the ship's English Captain Rossiter. It was such a change from the hardships and loneliness that it seemed like a dream to Eyre.

Comfortably bedded down in a cabin on the French boat he reflected on the goodness of the Lord: *"I learnt that the Mississippi had but recently arrived from France, and that she had only been three weeks upon the ground she had taken up for the season's whaling. As yet no whales had been seen, and the season was said not to commence before the end of June or beginning of July..... Sincerely grateful to the Almighty for having guided us through so many difficulties, and for the inexpressible relief afforded to us when we so much needed, but so little expected. I felt doubly thankful for the mercy we experienced, when, as I lay awake, I heard the wind roar, and the rain drive with unusual wildness, and I reflected that by God's blessing, we were now in safety, and under shelter from the violence of the storm, and the inclemency of the wet season, which appeared to be settling in, but which, under the circumstances we were in but a few short hours ago, we should have been so little able to cope with, or to endure....."* (Ibid).

In 1847 Eyre was awarded the Royal Geographic Society Medal for this incredible journey. On his return to Adelaide Governor Grey received the explorer at a special public dinner in his honour. Grey spoke of Eyre: *".....dauntless courage in the face of difficulty after difficulty.... and danger was as it were his bedfellow."* In his response, Eyre concluded by giving thanks to the Lord in whom he believed, served and continually acknowledged: *"Man may indeed propose, but that it is God above who can dispose.....It has pleased His Almighty Wisdom to bar our progress into the interior: but I still feel that I have much reason to be most sincerely grateful to that merciful and protecting Providence which has guided me through so many dangers."* (Ibid).

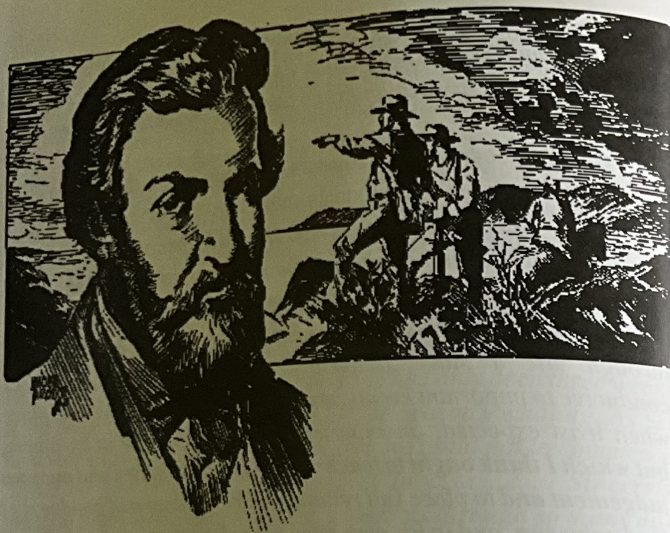
Eyre was held in high standing by many of his fellow explorers of the day: *"This man was Edward John Eyre, the friend of Sturt, and the father of Western Australian exploration."* (Warburton P. Colonel).

The explorer recognised and constantly acknowledged the hand of God operating in the lives of individuals and nations as did Sturt, Leichhardt and Grey: *"Such are the mysteries and inscrutable ways of Providence and so impossible is it for man's private comprehension to estimate the result even of his own simplest actions, still less to judge the more general ordinations of Divine wisdom. In my progress through life I have frequently found trivial circumstances conducive to important events, and influential occurrences take place when least expected: an experience no doubt shared in by others, but which I think ought to teach us to distrust ourselves and our own judgement and to place full reliance in the wisdom and goodness of God, who can, and in his own good time often does, make plain and clear what once seemed dark, inexplicable or unimportant...."* (Eyre Edward J).

At a public dinner given in Eyre's honour on 24th August 1841 the Honourable Captain Charles Sturt rose and said: *"..And it is from the unerring decree of Providence, which seems to have placed a limit to all human efforts in that direction, and not from any fault in him who this night appears among us, that an enterprise, conducted with so much ability and perseverance, has failed to accomplish its object. His merits, which seem to entitle him to a greater decree of success, are far too well appreciated to allow a want of success, which circumstances of the most appalling difficulty rendered impossible, to detract from his well-earned reputation."* (A Dinner for Mr. Eyre in Adelaide).

Despite his hardship, Eyre lived to be 86. In 1846, he was made Lieutenant-Governor of New Zealand. He was also made governor in various parts of the West Indies before retiring to England, where he lived until his death in 1901. Eyre's son went on to become a missionary to Fiji where he was later martyred.





### Fredrick Wilhelm Ludwig Leichhardt (1813 -1848)

While Charles Sturt opened up the south-eastern sector of Australia, Edward John Eyre completed the path to the west coast and Grey charted part of the western coastline, it was Fredrick Wilhelm Leichhardt who explored the northern areas of this great unknown continent. Like Sturt and Eyre, Leichhardt was a born again believer, a man of simple Christian faith who openly acknowledged Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour.

Leichhardt was an explorer and scientist - born in East Germany and raised in a Christian home - he studied at the University of Berlin and arrived in Australia in 1842 to study its rocks and wildlife. Soon the young German was involved in exploring. In 1844 he set out from Brisbane with ten men, of whom only seven completed the journey, seventeen horses, and sixteen bullocks.

The party was always becoming lost and to add to their troubles food was always short. To stay alive they ate all kinds of native animals, including lizards and flying fox. They explored as far north as Cape York until a war party of Aborigines attacked them killing one of the group and wounding two others. From there Leichhardt pushed on around the Gulf of Carpentaria, past Roper River to Port Essington covering some of the wildest and most inhospitable terrain in Australia.

The exhausted men finally reached Port Essington after an exhausting journey of 5000 kilometres. They had travelled through good country, naming the Dawson, Mackenzie, Isaacs, Suttor and Burdekin rivers, as well as the Expedition and Peak ranges. Further north he named the Lynd and Mitchell rivers. Leichhardt followed the coastline of the Gulf of Carpentaria, naming several rivers as he went. The party then traveled home by sea, and arrived after a journey of one year two months and seventeen days.

In a letter to his home in Germany he wrote: *"If nature stirs you to such pleasure, just think how she must stir me, in my chosen task of penetrating her secrets and discovering the laws that govern the everlasting might and splendour of her workings! Would it not be sin in me to give you any other answer but that of our Redeemer to his anxious Mother when she found him in the temple? 'Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?'"* (Leichhardt L.).

He remembered with affection the church of his childhood and often thought of his mother's parting words: *"My son, the Lord will not abandon you"*. (Ibid).

The courageous explorer's appreciation for his mother and his Lord can be sensed in his letters: *"Tears run down my cheeks, and I turn in prayer for her, for myself, and for us all, to the Heavenly Father who has so far kept us in his loving care."* (Ibid, page 930 Vol. 3).

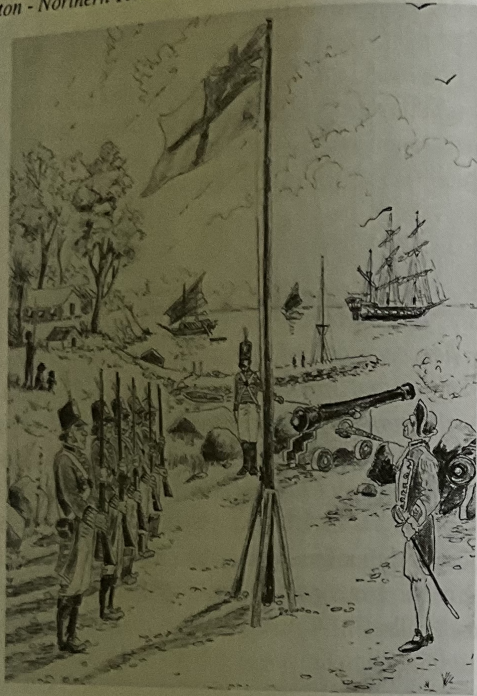
Leichhardt continues: *"The simple 'I believe in Jesus Christ Our Lord' is quite enough."* (Ibid, page 964, volume 111).

In another letter home the explorer discusses the "phenomenon of speaking in tongues", or Baptism in the Holy Spirit!

In 1846, the hardy explorer set out on his first attempt to cross Australia from the Darling Downs in Queensland to the Swan River in Western Australia, but he was forced to turn back because of the heat and drought. The party would cross some of the driest, desolate and most inhospitable land on earth. In 1848, he tried once again to find a route from Moreton Bay (Brisbane), to Perth, setting off with a party of seven men including two Aborigines. The expedition was badly equipped as Leichhardt thought



Pt Essington - Northern Territory; around the time of Leichhardt's arrival



that they could live off the land. However the expedition left the sheep station where they were staying and simply vanished. During the next ninety years nine major expeditions have tried to solve the mystery of Leichhardt's disappearance, and there have been a number of smaller expeditions. Various things such as skeletons, a coin, tomahawk and some bones were found, but nothing to link them conclusively with Leichhardt's lost party.

Some people believe that the party mutinied and killed Leichhardt and all were later killed by Aborigines except for one member of the party, Adolf Classen. It was thought that he lived on among the Aborigines. Other historians believe that Leichhardt's party was caught and died in sudden floods in the channel country in Queensland. Still others believe that he and his party may have died of thirst or from the constant bushfires that plague the country. For whatever reason, the expedition completely disappeared into the desert and the disappearance of this great Christian explorer remains a mystery of the Australian outback to this very day.

One thing is for sure, we know where Leichhardt is now - in heaven! He wrote: "*They also remind me that I owe my success in a dangerous undertaking to the care and protection of our benign Heavenly Father.*" (Ibid).

I believe Fredrick Wilhelm Ludwig Leichhardt is one of those "great cloud of witnesses" mentioned in Hebrews chapter twelve, that is cheering us, the end time Church, to strive towards the finish line!

This great man is personally one of my favourite explorers, mainly because much of the country he explored, in the Northern Territory and Queensland, is terrain with which I am familiar. In my pre-ministry days I roamed much of this rugged and remote bush country doing safaris and wild life photography, and even with the modern conveniences of four wheel drives it is tough going and certainly not for the faint hearted. What must it have been like for these early explorers?

I have visited the famous "dig" tree he marked in outback Queensland as well as Port Essington on the shores of the Arafura Sea in Arnhemland (Northern Territory). Even today this is still a major undertaking as the area lies in one of the most inaccessible regions of this country and probably the world. Besides being isolated there are other natural barriers that must be overcome, such as the heat, the intense humidity that saps one's strength, the violent electrical storms and the monsoons and tropical cyclones. Add to this the mosquitoes and sand flies, as well as the rivers, creeks and swamps, (most harbouring man eating crocodiles) and myriads of the most venomous snakes and marine creatures on earth. On top of this, Leichhardt would have had to contend with hostile natives and explore uncharted country into which no white man had ever ventured (few have to this very day).

### Leichhardt's Mother Taught Him The Word Of God

In a letter dated September 6th 1842 the explorer wrote to his mother: "*I feel as innocent as when you last took me in your arms. And I have you to thank for it. Why? Because when I think of the source of my moral principles what comes to mind is the room with the tiny little window in our old house, where you taught us to say our prayers morning and evening, and made us aware of our Father which art in Heaven.*" (Ibid).

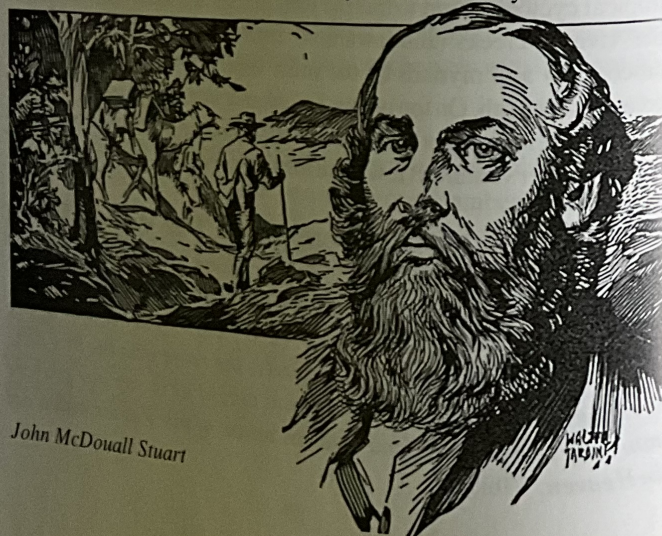


The explorer's contribution to opening Australia is unquestioned. In fact he is known as the most important of the scientific explorers, with the Royal Geographical Society awarding him their Patron's medal in recognition of "the increased knowledge of the great continent of Australia". The King of Prussia recognised the man's achievements. Justice Sir William Beckett not only records the explorer's deeds and exploits but also his love of His Lord: *"His mission was not to destroy; nor come back to tell. Of fields, in which, though nobly won, our best and bravest fell; Far higher conquests his than these - and well he knew his God. Would watch him all along the ways his trusting footsteps trod."*

Leichhardt's fate remains one of the great mysteries of the Australian outback, yet without question the explorer was a man of great courage and determination. He gave his life for the country he loved, as did so many of our forefathers who would follow. His last words, written from a remote out-station on the Cogoon were a reaffirmation of his faith in his Lord: *"Seeing how much I have been favoured in my present progress, I am full of hopes that our Almighty Protector will allow me to bring my darling scheme to a successful termination."* (Ibid).

### John McDouall Stuart

Stuart was another of our courageous explorers, a man of great perseverance and determination. Many historians only focus on the



John McDouall Stuart

explorer's rough, tough character as an unparalleled bushman, his reputation as a heavy drinker or having been an alleged Freemason. Because of this Stuart has remained a controversial character and some of his detractors minimize his achievements. But God looks upon the heart of man, not the outward appearances. A careful examination of Stuart's writings indicate many references to the **"Almighty as his friend"**, also his references to the divine Providence in his life and his **"trust in the Almighty"**.

Often confronted with hardship, danger and death, Stuart had an unwavering faith in God that always saw him through. An example of his "gutsy" character can be found in his confession: *"I was determined to succeed or die in the attempt"* (Stuart J. M.).

John McDouall Stuart, one of Australia's greatest and most successful explorers, is often referred to as the "king of Australian explorers". Some gauge of his ability as an explorer, bushman and leader can be found in the unrivalled distinction of him never having lost a man's life in the five expeditions he led through some of the most inhospitable terrain on earth.

Stuart was born in 1815 in Scotland and was a man of small stature. He was only 5'6" in height and weighed less than nine stone (57 kgs). He sailed from Dundee to Australia in 1838, aged 23 years, arriving in South Australia in January 1839.

Although he was never a particularly healthy man and may have suffered from tuberculosis Stuart loved the Australian outback and was: *"... too restless to settle down. He hated sleeping indoors, and did not even like to camp in the same place for two nights. New country had become his great passion, as well as his business..."* wrote the historian Pike. (Fitzpatrick K).

He was invited by Captain Charles Sturt to join his party in the search for the great inland sea and soon became his second-in-charge. By this time Sturt was nearly blind and relied on Stuart to draw the maps of the expedition. The party discovered Eyre's Creek and beyond that nothing but waterless stony desert. Despite making several attempts to reach the centre they were forced back 250 miles from their goal, leaving the boat - Sturt had intended to float on the inland sea - to rot in the desert.



In 1858, Stuart, then 42 years old, set off northwards on his own expedition with one assistant and one Aborigine. They then turned south-west and continued up the coast to Streaky Bay in South Australia. The rations intended for six weeks had been their only provisions for four months! Stuart had discovered 40,000 square miles of sheep country. He handed his diary and maps over to the government and in return was promised 1,000 square miles of the new country he had discovered, a reward which the courageous explorer never ever received: "As it turned out, however, his only reward for this journey was a gold watch from the Royal Geographical Society in London." (Ibid).

In 1859, with an ambition to cross the continent from south to north, Stuart set out again. His vision was beginning to suffer from the glare and flies were an: "everlasting torment." (Ibid, page 15).



Stuart hoists the British flag in the centre of the continent

His men rebelled and Stuart released them and sent an assistant to find new men and horses. The man returned with thirteen horses and just one man - Benjamin Head, and they again set out from Chambers Creek in March 1860 with the centre of the continent their goal.

The party pushed northward with water becoming scarce. The men soon began to show signs of scurvy and Stuart was losing the use of his right eye. It was here that Stuart discovered and named a river after his friend William Finke. Its course led them across the South Australian border to an interesting geological formation which he named Chambers' Pillar, and then on to the MacDonnell Ranges, which he named after the South Australian Governor MacDonnell.

Stuart's journal records: "I am now camped in the Centre of Australia. I have marked a tree and planted the British flag in the centre. There is a high mount .....and I will name it Mount Sturt after my excellent and esteemed commander of the expedition in 1844, Captain Sturt, as a mark of gratitude and his great kindness." (Ibid, p 105).

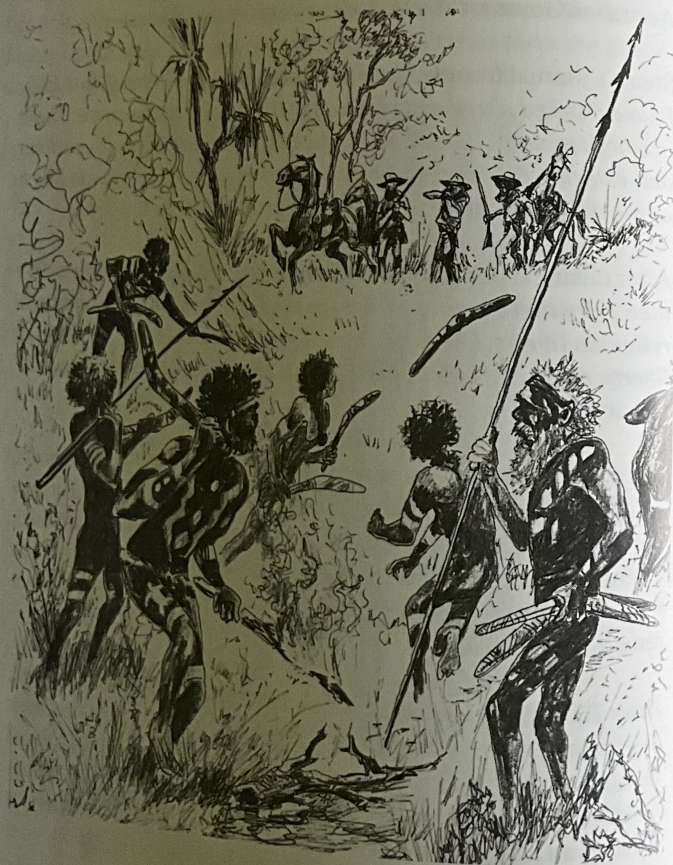
After raising the British flag Stuart then recorded in his journal: "We then gave three hearty cheers for the flag, the emblem of civil and religious liberty, and may it be a sign to the natives that the dawn of liberty, civilisation and Christianity is about to break upon them....." (Stuart John M).

The name of this mountain was later changed to Central Mount Stuart, although the person responsible for the change is not known. By now Stuart was seriously ill from scurvy and his gums were badly affected. One of the party named Head had shrunk to half his body weight and was constantly ill. Despite these setbacks Stuart would not consider returning to Adelaide.

After 200 miles, they reached a creek which Stuart named Tennant Creek. Two months later, in August 1860, they arrived back starved and sick at Chambers Creek. Stuart was rewarded by the Royal Geographical Society with a second award, this time it was the Patron's Medal. Historian Pike noted, apart from Stuart, Dr. David Livingstone was the only person to win this double honour!



In 1861, only a month after returning from his fifth expedition, Stuart's party left Adelaide again heading north and on April 5th 1862 they reached Newcastle Waters. After a week's rest Stuart headed north, with Thring and King, both excellent bushmen, again bound for the Victoria River. Finally they reached Daly Waters which Stuart named after the new Governor of South Australia. On July 1st Stuart thought he had reached a tributary of the Adelaide River and named it the Mary. On July 24th Thring and Stuart, scouting ahead, received their ultimate reward, they saw the sea, the northern coastline of Australia!



Stuart's party attacked by Aborigines

Stuart was first onto the beach. The Historian Pike wrote: "*He struggled across its soft blue mud and washed his hands and face in the Indian Ocean*". Thring could hardly contain his excitement and shouted '*The sea! The sea!*' to the others. Stuart wrote: '*At length understanding what was meant they commenced cheering at a terrible rate which lasted some time.*' (Fitzpatrick K). The next day, the party found a tree and nailed a Union Jack to its highest branch. Across the flag was Stuart's name, embroidered months earlier by Elizabeth Chambers. Stuart recorded in his diary: "*Thus I have, through the instrumentality of Divine Providence, been led to accomplish the great object of the expedition, and take the whole party safely as witnesses to the fact, and through one of the finest countries man could wish to behold....*" (Ibid).

Nine months after leaving Adelaide, the party turned for home. Stuart was extremely ill and becoming worse by the day. He was sick with scurvy, nearly blind. On the way he became so desperately ill that he was unable to ride - and convinced he would die - so the party shot a horse for meat and strung a hammock between two horses to carry him. One of the party, Auld, was later to recall: "*I am quite unnerved when I speak of Stuart, when I look back and remember the terrible pain he suffered. Stuart was the king of the Australian explorers.....After suffering many privations, and risking death from the spears of hostile Aborigines, John McDouall Stuart and his nine companions had done what many had thought impossible; they had crossed the vastness of the Australian continent along its central line, south to north and back again, from sea to sea, following a more or less direct route from Adelaide to the distant ocean. And now the heroes had returned . . .*" (Ibid).

Some idea of Stuart's relationship to the Lord can be gained from his personal writings, made during these trying days: "*My powers of endurance were so severely tested, that, last night, I almost wished that death would come and relieve me from my fearful torture. I am so very weak that I must with patience abide my time, and trust in the Almighty.*" (Fitzpatrick K, page 183). "*The pains are increasing in my limbs, and my mouth is so bad I can eat nothing but a little flour. How I am going to get over such long pushes I do not know. I must trust entirely to Divine Providence*" (Ibid, page 320).



*"To-morrow I must push on for Bonney. If that fails me I shall be in a sad predicament, I must trust that the Almighty will still continue to show me the same great kindness that he has done throughout my different journeys" (Ibid, page 443). "I feel myself getting weaker and weaker every day. I hope the Almighty will have compassion on me, and soon send me some relief. He is the only one that can do it - my only friend" (Ibid, page 454).*

*"I get little sleep night or day. I must endure my sufferings with patience, and submit to the will of the Almighty, who, I trust, will soon send me some relief" (Ibid, page 459).*

Professor Manning Clark wrote of Stuart's return: "...Stuart, was about to enter their town after successfully crossing the continent from the south to the north. By then everything near Stuart had the smell of decaying mortality. But he had survived. Although his body was reduced to that of a living skeleton and he felt himself to be a 'sad, sad wreck of former days', he wanted to thank 'the Almighty Giver of all Good, that He, in His infinite goodness and mercy, gave me strength and courage to overcome the grim and hoary-headed king of terrors' and allowed him to live a little longer in this world. Stuart had come back with the idea of the track to be followed by a telegraph line linking Australia with the world". (Clark M. Professor, page 329 Abridged Edition").

Head recalled Stuart's prowess in the bush: "You could not beat him. You could not beat the little fellow, no matter who it might be. He had the instincts of a bushman... there is not a man in Australia can say a word against him as a leader in the bush. He knew his way about if any man did. He was a born leader of men; the sharpest little fellow you would find in a year's march. There were no flies about Stuart, take my word for that ... he was a born explorer... Stuart was a splendid bushman, and could tell within a foot almost where we were. I never came across the like of him." (Fitzpatrick K, page 178).

What kept the great explorer going was his unwavering faith in the Lord: "The sky is overcast and I trust that God will send us rain in the morning."

Professor Manning Clark described Stuart this way: "He was a Dionysian figure of a man who was sustained at times by that vision of glory which had lived in Sturt and who had the fierce pride of the man who stood apart from his fellows." (Clark M. Professor).

Stuart, like so many of our Heroes of Faith, may not have been what is generally accepted as a "traditional Christian" but he was a man who believed in the Lord and was sustained and empowered by that faith to overcome circumstances that would have destroyed most other men. God's Providential hand rested firmly on his life!

### Peter Warburton

Warburton, the son of an English clergyman, migrated to Australia where he became a Commissioner of Police before turning his hand to exploration. In 1872 he set out on an expedition from Adelaide to Perth through the Central Australian Desert, a journey which would take him through some of the most inhospitable terrain in the world. His personal journal not only reveals some of the terrible conditions and daily dangers that he and his men faced, but it again shows a man who believed in the Lord: "We can only hope to prolong our lives, as God may enable us, on sun-dried camel flesh.. And should it please God to give us more water." (Fitzpatrick K).

It is obvious from Warburton's writings that he was a man of faith: "We are in the hands of God, and there is always hope while there is life. I am thankful to say I have neither fear nor fretfulness. I am not afraid of evil tidings... God grant us the strength to get through." (Ibid).

On more than one occasion the Lord saved Warburton and his men's lives. Once they were lost in the desert, dangerously close to death and down to their last drop of water. He wrote: "Unless it please God to save us, we cannot live more than twenty four hours. We are at our last drop of water, and the smallest bit of dried meat chokes me. I fear my son must share my fate as he will not leave me. God have mercy upon us...." (Ibid).

As always the Lord came through for them by guiding them to a hidden native waterhole: "Providence mercifully directed it otherwise, and



our departure was so timed that, after travelling from two to two hours and a half, when all hope of the recovery of the wanderer was almost abandoned, **under the guidance of the Almighty, he attributed the salvation of the party.** It was no accident that he encountered the well....I was so exhausted when we camped at 3 a.m. it was evident I never could have gone on after that night without more food and water. **I would therefore thankfully acknowledge the goodness and mercy of God in saving my life by guiding us to the place where we got both.....**" (Ibid).

Warburton is another fine example of the Christian faith and courage displayed by many of our forefathers who battled against tremendous challenges. His endurance and faith in God under the most adverse conditions a person could be subjected to constantly illustrated his unwavering faith in the Lord: **"Our lives have been preserved through many and great dangers, so my trust in God's mercy towards us: it never fails, though it does not take always the course we look for."** (Warburton P. Colonel).



Warburton (centre) with other members of the 1872-74 expedition

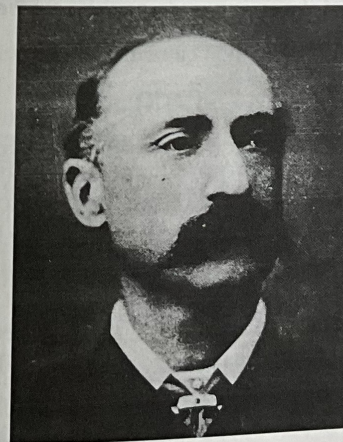
By reading Warburton's own account of his trials and hardships, the explorer's relationship with the Lord is easily recognizable: **"And now in conclusion, I would desire first to acknowledge with praise and thanksgiving the goodness and mercy of the Almighty God towards us in saving our lives through many perils."** (Ibid, page 293).

"We are deeply grateful to Almighty God, by Whose kind Providence our lives have been preserved.." (Ibid, page 305). "My two comrades joined this day with me in prayers and lessons of the first Sunday in Advent." (Ibid, page 270).

For his achievements Warburton was awarded the Royal Geographical Society's medal, and the Warburton Ranges are named in his honour.

### Ernest Giles

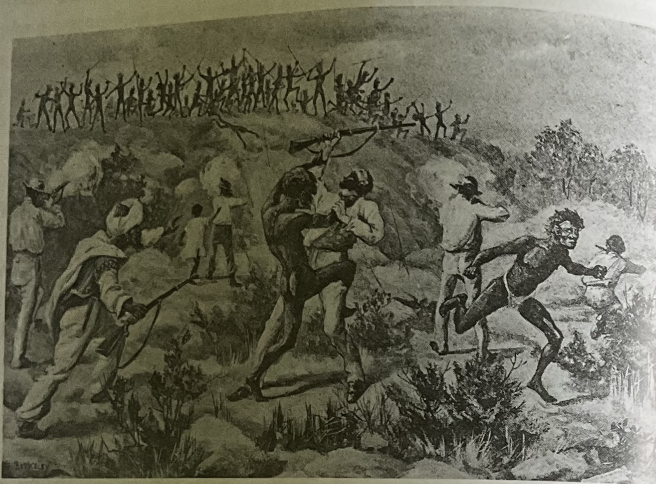
Giles was another of our early inland explorers who put his faith in the Lord. He set out from Adelaide in an attempt to cross the nation from east to west: **"Giles got into the Gibson Desert, from which he had to turn back. The story of his return from the Gibson Desert is probably the most extraordinary exploit in the whole history of Australian exploration and the only one in which the explorer was alone in his sufferings; even Eyre had the companionship of an Aboriginal boy. Giles was bitterly disappointed at having to turn back; he wanted passionately to be the first man to make a lateral crossing of the continent by an inland route."** (Fitzpatrick K).



Ernest Giles



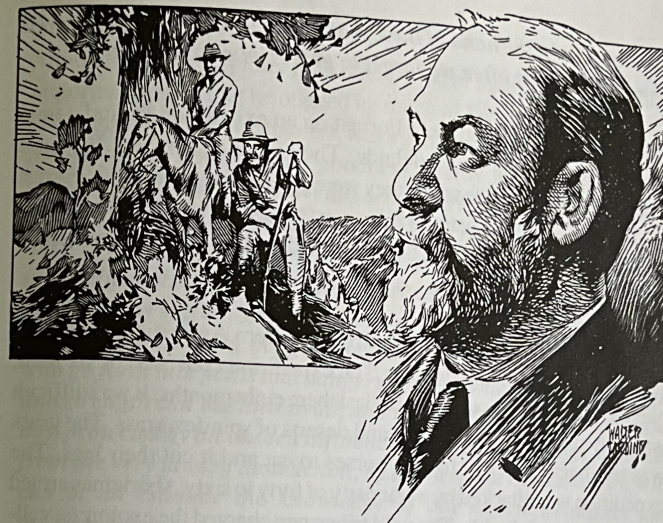
Giles expedition attacked by Pitjinjarra warriors - 1874



Giles love and respect for his Lord can be picked up in his writings: *"I could not help believing that the guiding hand of a gracious Providence had upon that occasion prevented me from obtaining my heart's desire to reach them; for had I done so, I know now, having proved what kind of country lay beyond that, neither I nor any of my former party would ever have returned. Assuredly there is a Providence that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will"*

### Sir John Forrest (1847-1918)

John Forrest and his brother became the best known explorers in Western Australia. Born in Bunbury Western Australia, Forrest was a surveyor, explorer and politician. In 1869 he and his brother mounted an expedition to investigate the disappearance of Ludwig Leichhardt which resulted in them finding the route for the construction of the telegraph line linking Perth with London. The explorer was just twenty two years old at the time. Forrest and his men spent nineteen weeks in the interior of Western Australia and had travelled over 3200 kilometres through previously unexplored territory. The country there consisted mainly of dry salt lakes and red desert with no permanent rivers and very few



water holes. Each day Forrest had to constantly search for water for his men and horses and when their supplies began to run out, they had no choice but to return, living on damper, tea and anything they could shoot or find. They arrived back in Perth after failing to find any sign of Leichhardt's expedition. They had however discovered the site of some of the richest mineral deposits in the world.

Evidence of the explorer's Christian faith can be found in his writings: *"The 19th was a Sunday, and according to practice, we rested every Sunday throughout the journey. I read Divine Service, and, except (for) making daily observations, only work absolutely necessary was done. Whenever possible, we rested on Sunday, taking, if we could, a pigeon, a parrot, or such other game as might come our way as special fare. Sunday's dinner was an institution for which, even in those inhospitable wilds, we had, a great respect"* (Fitzpatrick K).

Forrest, like so many of our forefathers, had brushes with death from thirst, hunger, natives and the merciless sun: *"It is in circumstances such as I am at present placed that we are sure to implore help and*



*assistance from the hand of the Creator: but when we have received all we desire, how often we forget to give Him praise!"* (Ibid).

In 1870, the government sent Forrest on an expedition to find a new route between Perth and Adelaide. They reached Fowlers Bay and continued on to Adelaide where they were given a warm welcome. Forrest was the first to cross Australia from west to east, having travelled overland from Perth to Adelaide, the opposite direction taken by Eyre some years earlier.

In 1874, Forrest set off to travel from Western Australia through the centre of Australia to Adelaide. The expedition consisted of six men, twenty horses and enough food to last them eight months. It was difficult walking through the heat, sand and deserts of spinifex grass. The grass was too harsh and dry for the horses to eat and it cut their legs. The expedition was attacked by a war party of forty to sixty Aborigines armed with spears and shields. The wild tribesmen charged the explorers, yelling and shouting fiercely, their spears raised and ready, leaving Forrest little option but to give the order to fire. The short battle left one native badly wounded and the war party fleeing into the hills.

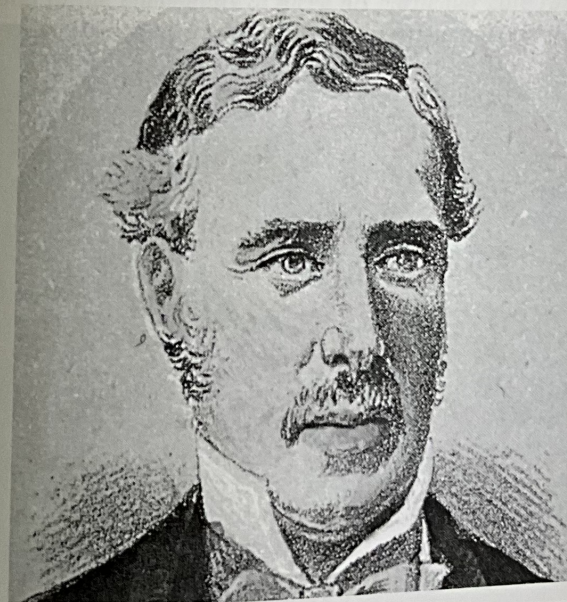
On November 3rd, they reached Adelaide where they were given a warm welcome by the crowds. Forrest was rewarded with a land grant of 2000 hectares, which he settled on and began to farm. A year later, even though he was only twenty eight years old, he was appointed to the position of deputy surveyor-general in Western Australia.

In 1890 he was elected as the first Premier of Western Australia and in 1901 was elected to the federal government. In 1918 he was made Baron John Forrest, the first native born Australian to be raised to this peerage.

At a dinner given in the explorer's honour the speaker said: "Mr. Forrest's courage never failed him ..and, by God's help, surmounted" (Ibid).

## Sir George Grey

Although only an explorer for a brief period of his life, Grey was still an important man in that he opened up much of Western Australia. Grey, like many of his fellow explorers, was a godly man, who continually gave thanks to the Lord for His goodness, mercy and guidance: "*I feel assured that but for the support I derived from prayers and frequent perusal and meditation of the Scriptures, I should never have been able to have borne myself in such a manner as to have maintained discipline and confidence among the rest of the party: nor in all my sufferings did I ever lose the consolation derived from a firm reliance upon the goodness of Providence. It is only those who go forth into perils and dangers, amidst which human foresight and strength can but little avail, and who find themselves, day after day, protected by an unseen influence, and ever and again snatched from the very jaws of destruction, by a power not of this world, who can at all estimate the knowledge of one's own weakness and the firm reliance and trust upon the goodness of the Creator which the human breast is capable of feeling.*" (Grey G. E. Sir).

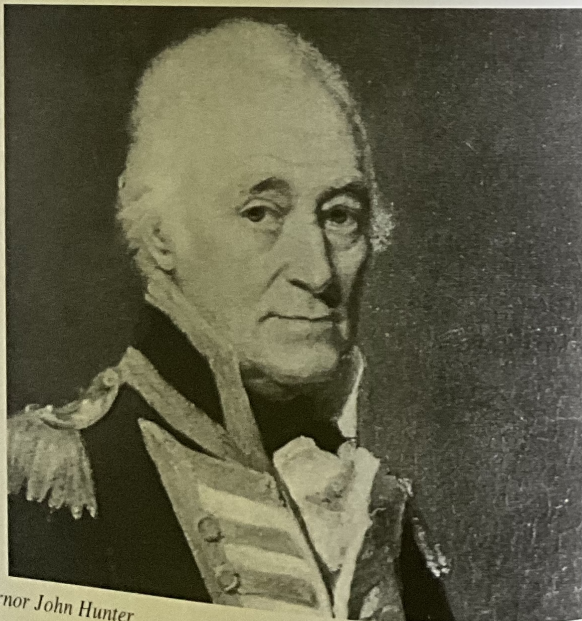


Sir George Grey



Some extent of Grey's enthusiasm for the study of God's Word can be found in his writings. He had discovered a series of magnificent Aboriginal cave paintings and commented: *"The cave was twenty feet deep, and at the entrance seven feet high.... The principal painting in it was the figure of a man, ten feet six inches in length, clothed from chin downwards in a red garment, which reached to the wrists and ancles (ankles); beyond the red dress the feet and hands protruded...The face and head of the figure were enveloped in a succession of circular bandages or rollers, or what appeared to be painted to represent such. They were coloured red, yellow, and white; and the eyes were the only feature represented in the face..."* (Ibid).

Grey's notes on this description read: *"This figure brings to mind the description of the Prophet Ezekiel: 'Men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed in vermilion, girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians or Chaldea, the land of their nativity. (xxiii. 14, 15)'"* (Ibid).



Governor John Hunter

Others among our early explorers who were men of God included John Oxley - one of the first officers of the Bible Society when it was founded in 1817, and Edmund Kennedy, described as *"actuated by high ideals and a strong religious sense as he was, his character was revealed in his deeds."* (Clark M. Professor).

## The Governors

In today's "enlightened" society many are quick to pass judgment on our convict past, but it must be remembered that these were hard times, hard people and very harsh circumstances. Many of our early governors were men trying to complete a very difficult task, often having to deal with entrenched graft among the colony's military garrison and the rampant debauchery and sin among the convicts. In the face of such problems it is encouraging to know that some of these governors were not only godly men but it was their love of the Lord that sustained them through extremely difficult and lonely times.

## Governor John Hunter

*"The hopes of those who believed that a new Governor would make the good of the community at large his particular care ran high in September 1795. For in that month a man of incorruptible integrity, unceasing zeal and sound and impartial judgment assumed the office of Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the colony of NSW."* (McLennan G. Dr.).

The Governor mentioned here was John Hunter, a fifty eight year old Captain in His Majesty's Navy. Australia was no stranger to Hunter. He had sailed into Port Jackson with the First Fleet in 1788, and had sailed aboard the Sirius to the Cape of Good Hope for supplies for the colony. It was Captain Hunter who was in command of the same ship when it was wrecked on a reef at Norfolk Island: *"Throughout his naval career he had showed himself to be a man who combined physical toughness with some of the gifts of an artist, a man who looked to Providence as a prop and support and who spoke of Christ as his Saviour. He remained to the end of his days..... as a very plain man bred to the honourable and respectable profession of a seaman in His Majesty's Navy, whose code of honour led him on to anguish and suffering,..... in a country which to the very end he loved passionately."* (Clark M. Professor, pages 142-143 Volume 1).



## Governor Lachlan Macquarie

Macquarie has sometimes been referred to as the "Father of Australia". His twelve year term as governor transferred the struggling penal colony into a thriving, prosperous community. Upon his arrival in 1810, the colony, which had suffered under the infamous Bligh, was under threat of famine, but by the time of his departure the population had grown from 11,000 to over 40,000 people and agriculture and commerce were thriving. One of Macquarie's first goals was to bring stability to families of the colony, for he believed the main purpose of education was *"to educate the young in the principles of the Bible.....To instruct the rising generation in those principles which, he believed, could alone render them dutiful and obedient to their parents and superiors: honest, faithful and useful members of society; and good Christians."* (Ibid, page 269 Volume 1).

*"His beliefs proved correct as the morals of the colony began to dramatically improve. 'As the Bible', wrote one letter-writer to the Sydney Gazette, 'urged natural affection, so all Bible readers had strong family feelings, in contrast with non-Bible readers, who were the deepest sunk into sensuality and vice, and furthest removed from family affection.'" (Ibid).*



Governor Lachlan Macquarie

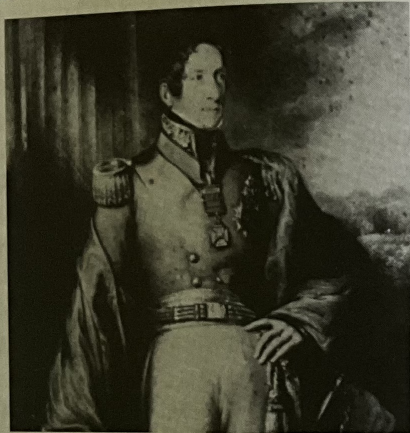
Macquarie issued orders that all convicts of all religious persuasions must attend divine worship on Sundays and on the first Sunday the Governor attended the service personally. The Governor's efforts to raise the colony from near barbarism to civilisation were also extended to the Aborigines. He not only built schools for the whites but also to teach the natives.

Macquarie also launched two British based Christian organisations: *"The first was the British and Foreign Bible Society, which had been founded in London in 1804. The founders believed that every man should be capable of reading the Bible, because its sacred truths produced a unity of sentiment and a correction of the most ferocious manners. They believed too that such an improvement in morals was the promise of prosperity as from fountains of morality flowed the greatest worldly comforts. The second movement was the Sunday School movement.... its supporters believed in the benefits to be derived by mankind from religious education, and proposed to promote this great object among the children."* (Ibid, pages 280-281).

The Governor's ideas had such an impact on the colony that even the historian Manning Clark wrote: *"Throughout all this time, Macquarie remained a champion of the rights of the reformed convict and the humbler settler. It was a commitment which was to make powerful opponents and destined to prove his undoing.. From that day until his departure he toured the settlements and was received with praise and affection by officials and settlers wherever he went. In Sydney there were fireworks and outpourings of joy for a man who sought to bring order and dignity to their lives.....When Macquarie died it seemed that chance and circumstance had colluded to award the palm of success amongst all peoples who had dreamed of planting their civilisation in the south seas to those who believed in the Protestant religion and British institutions. The Hindus had dreamed of the islands of gold...The Chinese had searched for spices, for gold, and for precious woods.....The Muslims (succumbed) to another conqueror. The Catholics had dreamed of a day when the people walking in darkness would see the light.....The Protestants, too, had dreamed that a 'wealth of terrestrial laurel and a crown of celestial glory' would be their reward for following the 'lovely paths of virtue'. By the time Macquarie died it seemed that at least some of his dream had come true."* (Ibid, page 380 Volume 1).



To a Christian reader, it is obvious that God's hand had rested on Lachlan Macquarie. He used this Godly man to help create a dynamic, young Christian nation in an area saturated with the Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu religions. This was a nation through which the Lord could launch the Gospel into Asia. Lachlan Macquarie was definitely one of "God's History Makers"!



### Sir Thomas Brisbane

Brisbane was a man's man, a decorated former war hero who rose to the rank of General before coming to Australia. He was a friend of the Duke of Wellington who had defeated Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo. A Christian, Brisbane was thrust into the disputes between the Anglicans and Catholics of the colony but refused to take sides. He supported Bible and Tract societies and helped the Anglicans establish the Church Missionary Society, which ministered mainly to the Aboriginal people. Professor Manning Clark describes Brisbane this way: *"From the earliest days, Brisbane had lifted up his eyes away from the world towards the heavens in more sense than one. Those who judged by appearances, and what a man gave out about himself, took him as a Christian, a scholar, and a gentleman. For his mind was set on the heavenly prize, for that peace which the world could neither give, nor take away. His greatest desire in life was that when the actions of all men were weighed in the balance of eternal gloom, his would not be found altogether wanting. Every Sunday he received the memorial of his Saviour's dying love. In order that he might be a worthy partaker of the sacrament, each week he renewed his covenant to be the Lord's to all eternity*

*before he approached the holy table. For him an immortal soul was the unspeakable object of value in human life. For that lived in him too, that hope that if he freely forgave, then he, through the merits of Jesus Christ, would be freely forgiven for all the sins of his life."* (Clark M Professor, pages 21-23, volume 2).

### Richard Bourke

Bourke was another of our Governors with a heart for the Lord, as well as being a military man, rising to the rank of Major-General before being appointed Governor of New South Wales. Manning Clark says Bourke was no ordinary man, and one who was totally opposed to any form of religious discrimination: *"There his natural gentleness, his charity and reverence for all men were put to the test and not found wanting... In the Protestant Church.....he read on the tablets in the church those sentiments which so simply expressed the principles by which he guided his life. He read of that Christian holiness of life, of the law of kindness on the lips, and the love of God and man in the heart of man, of patient compassion in well-doing until that day when he fell asleep in full assurance of a blessed and glorious resurrection to eternal life."* (Ibid, page 184 Volume 2).

Bourke contributed to the propagation of the Gospel in the new colony. While he was Governor he took a trip to Melbourne - then part of NSW - and took with him a consignment of Bibles to distribute and preached in several churches in Melbourne. He also personally donated a considerable sum of money to the Bible Society to help with their work.



Richard Bourke



### Lt. Col. George Arthur - The Saint Of Hobart Town

In 1824 James Stephens of the Colonial Office informed George Arthur that he was being given a unique opportunity. *"He told him of the importance of his mission to establish a Christian, virtuous and enlightened state in the centre of the eastern hemisphere and within reach of the Chinese, Hindu and Mohammedan nations which surrounded him. The problem was how to render it Christian, virtuous and enlightened."* (Ibid).

*"Arthur seemed to be the man to undertake such a mission. He shared with Stephen the sense of being called to live with the humble, affectionate and active followers of Jesus Christ, and to receive all those gifts and graces which adorned the Christian character.. while reading the Scriptures he had begun to be weighed down with guilt and the knowledge that the heart of every man was desperately wicked. Happily for him in the midst of this abasement, it had pleased God to convey to his soul the most cheering reflections. In Honduras he had read of the all-sufficient atonement by Christ, and had become perfectly tranquil, perfectly cheerful and happy. Through the free grace of God he had come to believe he would one day enter into eternal life.... By his life he hoped to testify to his fellow-creatures that he was walking in the Gospel light, and so assist others in the way to heaven."* (Ibid, page 110 Vol. 2).

Unfortunately Arthur was to preside over a turbulent time in the state's history, a period when extreme violence broke out between the settlers and the Aborigines. *"For Arthur the sovereign remedy for all human depravity was to encourage the spread of religious feelings. He proposed to build schools and churches; to bring out more persons to teach the convicts of the great battle raging in the human heart between Jehovah and Beelzebub.....His role as an improver of mankind exposed him to the undying hatred of some of the convicts and to the wrath of the settlers."* (Ibid, pp 167 Abridged Edition).

*"...historians did not treat him kindly; the man who had lived for the day when he would appear before the throne of grace became sport for the fault-finders. A man with a forgiving spirit and deep compassion had paid the terrible price men exact from those who seem to resist the march of humanity from darkness towards light."* (Ibid).

### Sir George Gipps

Gipps, the son of a Church of England minister, was another who chose a career in the military before becoming Governor of the colony in New South Wales. **Gipps was a passionate man about his biblical beliefs and attempted to extend equality to all men - regardless of class, race or creed.** He was concerned for the Aborigines. Unfortunately during his term as Governor one of the worst massacres in our nation's history took place - the Myall Creek Massacre - in which 30 friendly natives were brutally murdered. Gipp's sense of justice was apparent as after Chief Justice Dowling acquitted the 7 white men involved he demanded a retrial before a new and unbiased judge, Sir William Burton. This time the men were found guilty and hanged for their crime despite public protests by the largely anti-Aboriginal population.

Although Gipps was not a popular governor he was a good and just one, a man of high principles and a strong sense of justice and unimpeachable moral character. He was also a man of faith and prayer and always stood firm for his Christian beliefs. Manning Clark describes him as: *"A sensitive, vulnerable man who took refuge in prayer and hard work."*

In 1838 when a severe drought threatened the young colony Gipps called a day of national prayer and fasting. Within days the drought broke and heavy rain began to fall.



Sir George Gipps





## Australia's Women Heroes Of Faith

### Caroline Chisholm

Let's not forget the wonderful contribution by the great women founders of this nation. One lady, Caroline Chisholm was possibly the greatest woman pioneer in Australian history and a grateful nation has acknowledged her contribution by gracing our currency with her face. Reflecting on her remarkable life, Sir Keith Hancock commented: *"It is scarcely an exaggeration to assert that Mrs. Chisholm established the dignity of womanhood and of the family in New South Wales."*

Mrs. Chisholm took on the daunting role of protector and friend of the immigrant women, whose conditions were appalling in the early colony days. She gave these hopeless outcasts the opportunity to become productive members of Australian society. She not only became their protector but also a radical reformer, constantly crying out against the abuses of the immigration system. Though she was unsuccessful in changing government policy because of the vested interests of many squatters, she did awaken the public's conscience and some of the changes she advocated were later incorporated into government policy.

"Caroline Chisholm had two handicaps - her femininity and her religion... Her failure to get official help would have daunted most people but not Caroline. She tells how on Easter Sunday in 1841 she made a solemn vow while at prayer: *"During the season of Lent of that year, I suffered much; but on Easter Sunday, I was enabled at the altar of our Lord to make an offering of my talents to the God who gave them. I promised to know neither country nor creed but to try and serve all justly and impartially. I resolved in every way to sacrifice my feelings, surrender all comfort, nor in fact consider my own feelings or wishes but wholly devote myself to the work I had in hand."* (100 Famous Australians, Paul Hamlyn 1969).

Much of Mrs Chisholm's work was carried out at her own expense. She met every immigrant ship coming into Sydney and found lodging and jobs for the migrant girls. She developed employment agencies, resettled families onto the land and spent hours riding around the bush to visit "her girls". She soon became a legend in the colony and was aided in her work by men such as the famous writer Charles Dickens. M. Kiddle wrote in her book "Caroline Chisholm": *"herself a devoted wife and mother, she helped to give dignity to women and family in a harsh colonial society. Her achievement was made possible by her idealism and courage."* While Manning Clark had this to say about the great lady: *"Caroline Chisholm reminded her contemporaries that there would be no rest until man was recognised as man, without distinction of 'colour or clime'."*

### Georgina Molloy - A Madonna in the Bush

Many of the women pioneers of this great nation had to put up with isolation, hardship, pain and death, which they were able to bear because of their faith. One that comes to mind is Georgina Molloy. After landing in Western Australia in 1830, the young Georgina had her first baby die in her arms: *"She turned to her God for comfort, for He had shown Himself to both of them in 'many wonderful instances'.... She sadly missed a female of her own rank to speak to.... But she did not give way to despair. She had her own faith to sustain her through the nights of doubt and sorrow...."* Stricken with disease and a young age she never lost her faith in the Lord: *"She sang to the end a hymn of praise of all the beauty she had discovered in that part of God's world."* (Page 30, The History of Australia, Vol. 111)



### Mary McConnel

Mary was a devout Christian lady who was greatly used of the Lord in working with children. One of her projects was the establishment of the Brisbane Children's Hospital. She writes: "*Surely I was helped, my subsequent life, I think, proves that my Father had chosen this way for His child.*" (McConnel M.).

When it became apparent that her divine destiny was to help the children of the colony she wrote, "*I believed that the Lord must have sent me to this new land for some practical purpose.*" (Ibid). Perhaps the words that most sum up this remarkable "heroine of faith" are those quoted in her memoirs: "*Could I ever doubt the ever watchful eye of our Father in Christ our Lord.....*". (Ibid).

Mary was not only concerned about the health of the children of the new colony but also about their education, so she converted her own home into a schoolroom on week days and a church on Sundays.

### The Pioneers Of Faith - John "Flynn of the Inland"

"Flynn of the Inland" is probably our best known and loved pioneer. He was a man of great vision and passion and he was also a wonderful Christian. He was born in Victoria in 1880 and grew up in a home where Jesus was Lord. His father was a Methodist lay-preacher. At the age of 21 Flynn wrote his father: "*...the more I think the more I see the grandeur and beauty of Christianity, and the hollowness of human life considered as complete in itself.....If it is true that Jesus is God's Son, and that through Him 'whosoever-will' may approach the father himself, what more honourable calling can a man follow than getting his fellows to realise this fact: and act upon it?*" (James R.)

"*From that day on the Rev. John Flynn committed himself to a path of serving His Lord in whatever way he would lead, and what a path that would prove to be. He started out ministering to people in the outback, he was struck with the vast "emptiness of Australia", a huge continent of which virtually two thirds were without a minister, doctor or nurse. He set out to rectify the matter and conducted a mission trip to the outback's hearers. As a result of this mission trip he published "The Bushman's Companion" which contained sections on first aid, Bible readings, hymns and prayers.*" (McPheat W.S.).

*hymns and prayers.*" (McPheat W.S.). The book was a success, with help from the local police force who helped distribute it. The book sold well throughout the bush: "*In 1911 Flynn had become the Presbyterian minister in a parish the size of the United Kingdom. By 1912 he had established the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) and started a network of travelling padres moving up and down the Inland by camel, horse, buggy and train, going into the Never-Never with the gospel.*" (James R).

The first padre had a patrol area of 240,000 square miles and a population of just 400 whites! "*Can we allow our most valuable pioneers to toil on without inspiration or cheer from the church?*" he told the church. "*Is not our simple and almost severe expression of faith peculiarly fitted to appeal to silent men of the uttermost bush?*" (Ibid).

"*Early men who served under Flynn's mission were true pioneers themselves. Covering an area each as large as Great Britain, and containing only a few hundred souls, these servants of Christ took the love of God and the Bible to many.....pastoralists, boundary riders, well sinkers, station hands, natives, stockmen, miners, railway workers, pub owners and swaggies. They found congregations needing preaching, literature, friendship, nursing, doctoring, baptism, marriage and sadly also sometimes burial. Loaded up with everything imaginable (portable organ, Bibles, tracts, hymn books medicine, food and clothing), the missionaries crossed desert, gibber, flood plains and rivers. Flynn himself knew some parts of the outback so well that he could direct others in the dark.*" (Ibid).

Flynn's love for the Lord and the pioneers of the outback was boundless. He published a magazine called "The Outback Battler" and opened the first AIM hospital at Oodnadatta with these words: "*In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the great Healer and Redeemer of men..... I trust every person entering this hospital will go out cured of his infirmity and blessed in soul as well as body.*" (Ibid).

Flynn soon realised the urgent need for medical attention for these forgotten bush folk and it galvanized him to build fifteen inland hospitals, each staffed by a nurse. Often these nurses had to battle floods, dust



Opening of the A.I.M. Hospital at Halls Creek



storms, thunderstorms, heatwaves of 120 degrees, ride horses, cross rivers holding onto their horses tail, camp out in the uncharted outback, make splints from tree branches and perform bush surgery in makeshift surgeries. These brave nurses had to treat such diseases as leprosy or perform delicate operations under the directions of doctors hundreds of miles away. Flynn himself was overseer of this work.

After the first World War Flynn was inspired with an idea from the Lord for a "flying doctor", using the combination of aircraft and radios to bring medical attention to thousands of people who lived in the remote outback of Australia. With the help of a young Australian scientist he developed a pedal radio which would allow the patient to call and communicate with the Flying Doctor. The result was a huge success and thus in 1928 the Aerial Medical Service - the world's first flying Doctor - was born. Soon the "Victory" was winging its way to the sick throughout the Australian outback from its Queensland base in Cloncurry. Within twelve months Dr Welch had logged 20,000 miles in fifty flights to twenty six bush towns that were without a doctor, visited 255 patients and saved many of their lives. The Flying Doctor covered an enormous expanse of country, from its Queensland base they could reach north to the Cape York Peninsula, west into the Northern Territory and south into South Australia, a total area of 250,000 square miles. Today many hundreds of Australian outback dwellers owe their lives to Flynn and his God-given dream, "For Christ and Country".

What a remarkable man was Flynn. Every Australian knows the name "Flynn of the Inland", but far fewer know that he was not only a great humanitarian and a man of bold vision and action, but a man who loved the Lord and gave his life completing what God had called him to do!

### Our Aboriginal Christian Brothers

It goes without saying that our Christian heritage would not be complete without reference to our Aboriginal, Islanders and Torres Straight brothers and sisters. There have been numbers of these wonderful men and women of God. For instance Senator Neville Bonner. I have personally worked with a number of these Christians in the Northern Territory and Queensland who have taken the Word of God back not only to their own people, but also to the towns and settlements of the vast outback. We owe a great debt to many of these men and women of God and they are a very real part of Australia's Christian heritage: *"In the midst of their quarrels and bloody fights.... And during the time of their most pitiful cries around their sick and dead ones, we have been able to bring them the Gospel of peace, and many times they did throw down their weapons .....in order to listen to the Word of God and the joyful news of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. In the beginning of 1860 a remarkable awakening amongst the blacks began with earnest cries to God for mercy, and sincere tears of repentance, which was followed by a striking change in their lives, manner and habits."* (Murray I.).

### Sir Douglas Nicholls (1906 - 1988).

Sir Douglas was an Aboriginal pastor who went into federal politics. In 1968 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire and in 1976 he was appointed Governor of South Australia - the first Aborigine to receive a vice-regal appointment. He was knighted in 1976.

### Lives Devoted To The Lord

It wasn't just the Protestants either. Some of our early Catholic priests were devoted believers: *".....once word was brought to Father Therry that a convict sentenced to death wanted to see him for confession. After a long ride Therry came to a river in flood, and shouted to a man on the opposite bank to give help in the name of God and a*



departing soul. The man threw a rope which Therry tied around his waist and plunged into the river to be hauled across to the other side, where without pausing for a rest or change of clothing he mounted another horse, rode on and arrived in time to bring consolation of religion to the convict before he was launched into eternity. By such acts of heroism and devotion and a boundless charity Therry demonstrated that the image of Christ lived in the sons of the Church." (Clark Professor M).

### The Bushrangers - "Heroes" Of Many Australians

The turbulent years of the mid 1880's were the era of the bushranger and unfortunately many Australians saw these men as their heroes and role models, some still do. There is something wrong when a nation takes as its folk heroes killers and criminals. A nation draws its national character or identity from its national heroes. Even today many movies, songs and books almost eulogize these men. Names such as Ben Hall, Captain Starlight and Ned Kelly are synonymous with this period of Australian history.



Ned Kelly and his gang hold up Jerilderie

".....Hall was accessory to two murders and committed sixty-four robberies under arms. In twenty-nine weeks between 1864 and 1865 he robbed the mail-coach many times in the Gundagai-Jugiong district, plundered the stations of the squatters, stuck up carriers on the great south road, robbed country stores, attacked gold escorts near Araluen, stole racehorses and robbed the Nubriggan Inn...When Ben Hall was buried in Forbes Cemetery on 7 May 1865 a crowd of one hundred sympathisers including forty or fifty women, gathered at the graveside. Within a few years of his death the man whom the bourgeois press had vilified as a wild beast was apotheosized into a hero of the bush people of Australia. (Clark Professor M, pages 342-344 Abridged Edition).

Ned Kelly was possibly the most famous of all Australian bushrangers, born in an era of time and remote part of the country where men bordered on savagery. Ned hated police, Aborigines and squatters and sought to wreak havoc on them. In 1878 he shot dead, in cold blood, three mounted policemen, causing the Victorian government to place a 500 pound bounty on his head - dead or alive. But a minister of the Gospel, alone and unarmed, had the courage to stand up and confront this killer.

### A Minister Of The Gospel Stood Up To Ned Kelly

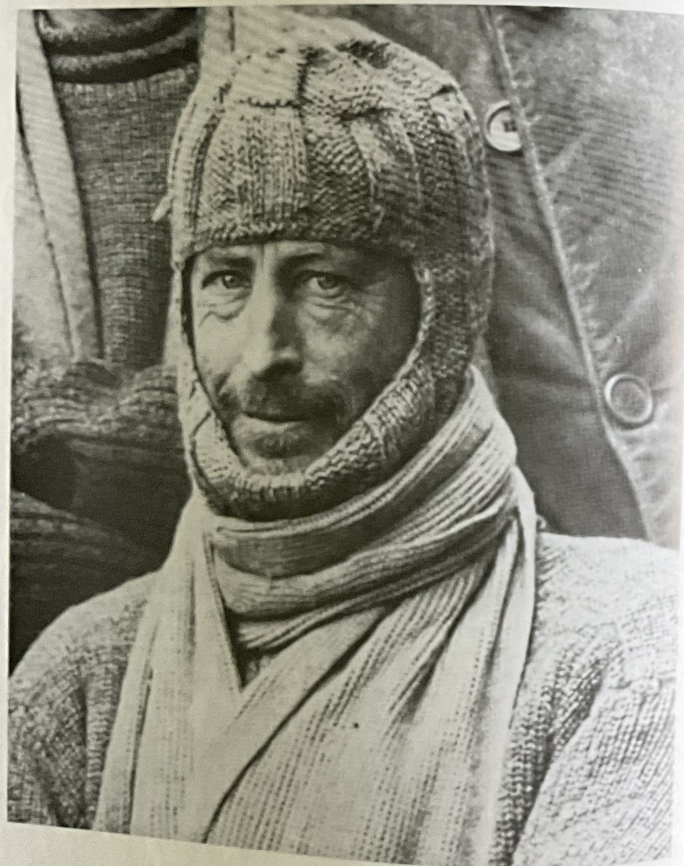
The Reverend Gribble was the only man ever recorded that had the boldness to confront Ned and his bloodthirsty gang. In 1879 Ned and three members of his gang rode into the small town of Jerilderie (NSW). After capturing the Post and Telegraph Offices and cutting the wires connecting the town to the outside world, they rounded up the three local police officers together with all the men of the town and held them prisoner in the Royal Mail Hotel. Then Ned went on one of his infamous rampages threatening to kill the police and local land owners and burn down the bank with its records. Manning Clark records: "Before the gang's departure the Methodist minister, the Rev. Gribble, had the courage, possibly even the foolhardiness to request Ned to direct Steve Hart to hand back a watch he had stolen from him. Gribble was a man troubled by the brutality meted out to Aborigines by the white land holders, a man who would soon endure the wrath of his parishioners and of his church for speaking the truth. Ned Kelly had no.... idea that the man...was moved by sympathy for those



Aboriginal people whom Kelly despised. For a moment two brave men - two men at odds with authority - confronted each other .. before going their separate paths to the great ordeal of their lives. Ned ordered Steve to give the watch back. Gribble.....said, 'Goodbye to you, Ned Kelly'. Ned and his gang rode off to their hiding place in the Warby Ranges. Gribble returned to his mission at Warangesda" (Clark Professor M, page 385 Abridged Edition).

### Douglas Mawson - Conqueror Of The Antarctic

Every Australian knows the name of Sir Douglas Mawson, the famous Australian Antarctic explorer, but I was unaware of his relationship with God until I read his life story.



In 1912 the Australian Antarctic Expedition included the following, Douglas Mawson (leader), Swiss ski-jump champion Xavier Mertz and British Army Lt. Belgrave Ninnis. The expedition set off for the South Pole through some of the most horrendous terrain and conditions in the world but it ended in disaster. Ninnis was swallowed up by an icy crevasse and Mertz died from exposure. Yet Mawson's faith in his Lord helped sustain him through these trying times and his story remains one of the bravest epics of our nation's history.

Philip Ayres, who delved through previously unpublished diaries and logs, has authored a book in which he documents Mawson's references to the Lord: *"I could pull through myself with provisions at hand but I cannot leave him (Mertz). His heart seems to have gone..... I pray God to help us.. I don't mind for myself but it is for all the others connected with the expedition that I feel so deeply..... I pray God help us."* (Ayres P).

Mawson was halfway across Mertz Glacier when the ice gave way plunging him four meters into a crevasse until he snapped to a halt, suspended at the end of a taut thin rope: *"I had time to say to myself 'So this is the end', expecting every moment the sledge to crash on my head and both of us to go to the bottom unseen below. Then.... I thought of Providence (the hand of the Lord) again giving me a chance... I considered slipping out of my harness and dropping to end it... With the feeling that Providence was helping me I made a great struggle, half getting out, then slipping back again... but at last I just did it! .. I felt grateful to Providence....who has so many times already helped me."* (Ibid).

After a four hour struggle Mawson climbed out of the ice tomb to battle for the next three days over slippery ice slopes against raging 130 kilometres per hour winds, before finally being forced to shelter in a cave for eight days. Finally he staggered into the base. The flesh on the soles of his feet had come away and had been tied back on with lamp wick. He was half his original weight (a living skeleton) and beyond recognition - but still thankful to his God. *"There were tears in several eyes as the story proceeded. What a grand relief! To have reached civilization after what appeared utterly impossible. What a feeling of gratitude to Providence for such a deliverance."* (Ibid).





Alfred Deakin, three time Prime Minister of Australia and co-author of the nation's constitution

## Chapter 4

# The Faith of Our Founding Fathers

### Henry Parkes - Father Of Federation

Parkes, known as the Father of Federation, believed Australia had a special destiny and called for Australians to be: *"one people with a destiny"*. *"Parkes believed the time had come for him to tell the world what he stood for...He spoke of himself as a vessel of Almighty God ...that God had selected him to perform a special work..He also made so bold a claim that...God,would understand, even if man judged him harshly. God and the people, he believed, had chosen him to teach mankind to use democracy for the creation of an enlightened people in Australia."* (History of Australia Vol. 111 Pp 261).

Parkes was another of our founding fathers who believed passionately in our Christian Heritage, he said: *"...we are pre-eminently a Christian people - as our laws, our whole system of jurisprudence, our Constitution.....are based upon and interwoven with our Christian belief....."* (Sydney Morning Herald, 26/8/1885).

### Sir John Downer

Downer, also one of the co-author's of the Constitution wrote: *"Our Commonwealth of Australia will be, from this first stage, a Christian Commonwealth."*

### Alfred Deakin - Australia's Second Prime Minister

Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister of Australia three times, is one of our most famous politicians. He was the man we predominantly have to thank for the passing of the Constitution through the English House of Commons. He became Australia's second Prime Minister, after Edmund Barton, who was inspired to enter politics by his Presbyterian Minister, Robert Steele. Deakin was born in Victoria in 1856 and was to become a Christian statesman. He was the nation's first Attorney General and



has been credited with founding the High Court, the Arbitration Court and the Royal Australian Navy, as well as selecting Canberra for the location of the nation's capital. He served the nation three times in the office of Prime Minister. In 1891 Australia's first constitution was being drafted and it was absolutely essential that the wording be just right. Many of the states could not agree. Deakin, as one of the co-authors of the document, devoted himself to many hours of prayer to get the mind of God for that precise wording and was "delighted when the Constitutional Convention unanimously carried the preamble inclusion: **'humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God.'**"

### The Constitution Came About By A Miracle Of God

In the concluding words of his book "The Federal Story" Deakin remarks that "*.....Federation and the Australian Constitution were 'providential' and were secured only 'by a series of miracles'.*" After the colonies decided to join together in Federation, Deakin offered this prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord: "*Father of nations, receive our psalm of thanksgiving. Enable us to pursue the cause of unity in spite of the obstacles which at present appear to beset our path elsewhere. Guide us to appeal to that which is best and purest so as to make its development and mastery sure under our forms of government. Aid us to purify ourselves by our labours for the general well being and to invoke spiritual and moral principles so as to link us with our brethren on the highest plane to which we can at present attain. God preserve this people and grant its leaders unselfish fidelity and courage to face all the trials for the sake of brotherhood. Thy blessing has rested upon us here yesterday and we pray that it may be the means of creating and fostering throughout all Australia a Christlike citizenship.*" (Deakins Prayer 223, 4/6/1898).

I received a call from a distraught Christian who had heard a radio personality state that Deakin had been a spiritualist and regularly in contact with the dead. As is so often the case what this person was stating was partly true. Deakin had grown up in a Christian home but had strayed off into spiritualism. However before he became Prime Minister he renounced spiritualism and accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. In 1905 he wrote: "*sufficient to say that the religion of Jesus Christ is the life of the present, the light of the future, and the hope of the world.*" (Deakin A). Do these sound like the words of a spiritualist or a man of God?

Deakin kept a spiritual diary and from 1884 to 1913 he wrote a "Boke of Praer and Praes" (Prayer and Praise), containing nearly four hundred prayers, many relating directly to major decisions in his public life, revealing his utter dependence on God. Many illustrated his burden for the nation as well as his personal relationship with his Lord: "*.... always I realise the existence of God - always I believe in Him with my intellect and turn to Him with my heart but I am anxious for a closer and more permanent relationship.* Almost always I believe in the spiritual efficacy of prayer and often I am inclined to pray; sometimes the power to put my cry in words will come - sometimes it will not come. I shall write those prayers I can express so as to open the channel wider and enable me to recall past prayers...." (Deakin A).

### Deakin's Desire To Pray

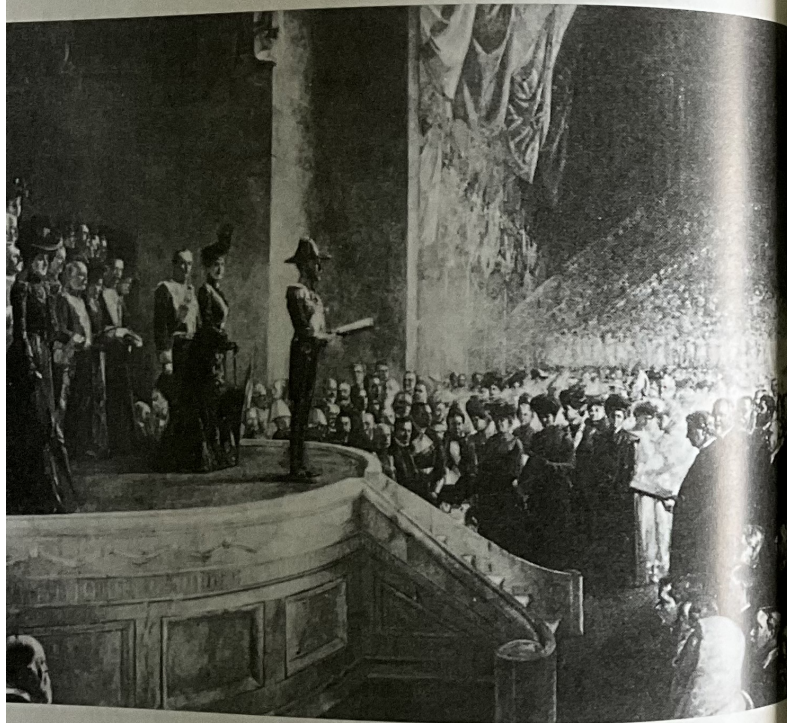
Read the words of the Prime Minister's heart in his prayers to his Lord. "*O God teach me to pray - give me the impulse to prayer, give me the sense of Thy nearness, give me that insight into Thy nature which shall quicken me to faith, give me the feeling of absolute isolation from the world and from my lower self that I may realize and reap the fruits of communion with Thee.*" (Deakin's prayer 1, 3/8/1884).

"*O God teach me to pray - for to pray is to acknowledge Thee and Thy influence upon my soul and to bow my pride to beg of Thy bounty somewhat to satisfy my thirsty spirit. O God teach me to pray - give me that lowliness of heart, that modesty of desire, that patience in enduring and that transport in acting which belong to the prayerful. O God teach me to pray for to pray is to feel my manifold weaknesses and failings - it is a confession of my keen sense of my own unworthiness out of which I look up to Thy helpfulness and cry 'O God teach me to pray.'*" (Deakin's prayer 2, 9/8/1884).

### His Desire To Be In God's Will To Serve His Nation

"*Gracious and Merciful God enable me to fulfil my daily duties with patience, meekness, humility and cheerfulness. Grant me the sincerity of soul to slight nothing, neglect nothing, and spare nothing that may enable me to be just and kind to all about me. If my life cease now or my public career come to a speedy end; if all large or notable work be put beyond me let me at least as son, brother, husband, father, friend and citizen carry into all these relationships*





The opening of Australia's Federal Parliament, Jan 1st 1901

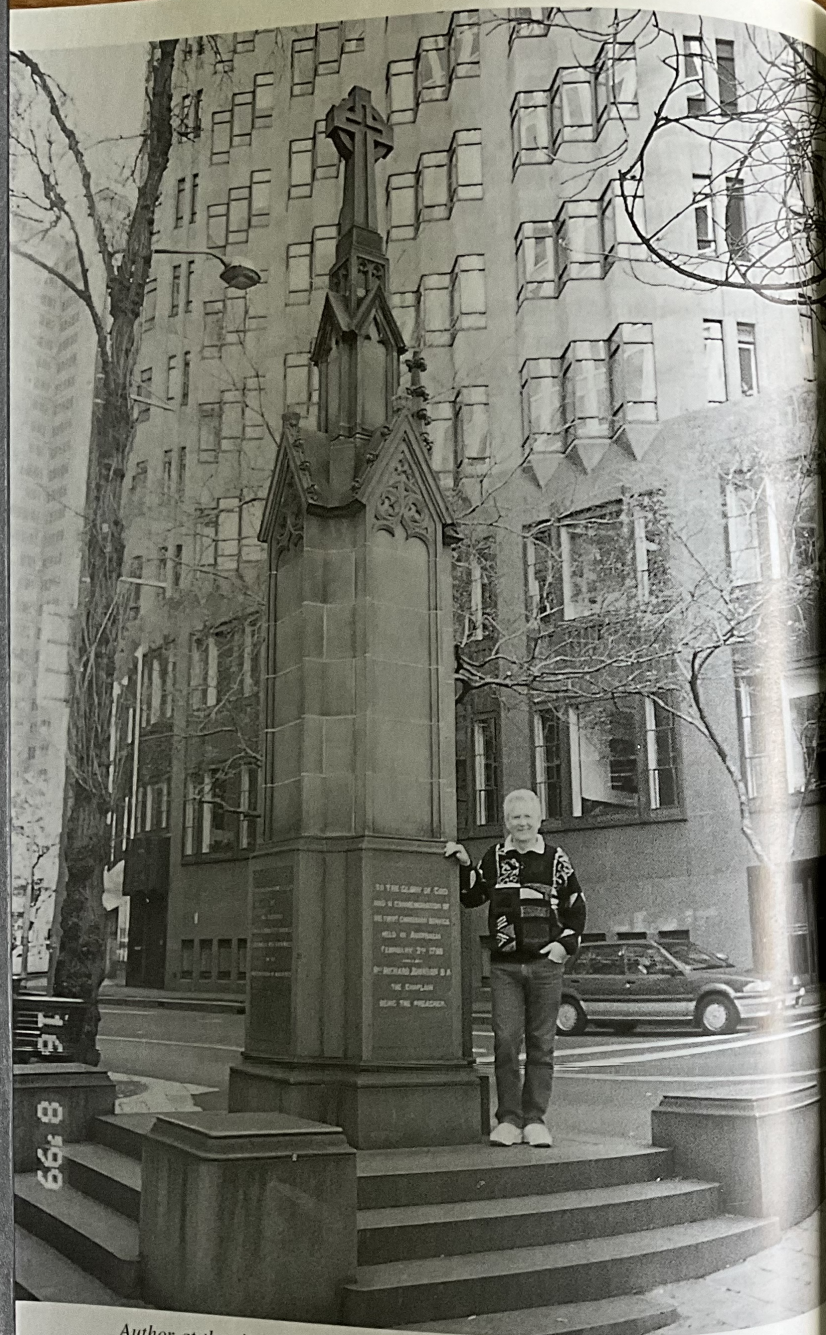
*and to all my private life the spirit of sacrifice, of self-conquest, of aspiring zeal and of true unselfishness. Give me of Thy great eternal and all-embracing Love enough to guide me in my home and business to make them worthy of Thy constant presence."* (Deakin A).

Besides being a brilliant orator Deakin was a man of faith and prayer. His Christian faith and great love for Australia are clearly demonstrated in this prayer he offered for the nation almost one hundred years ago: *".....Guide my judgement so that I may discern the path in which I can be of the best service to my kind and fulfil Thy Will.... I wish to choose the best - not from my own point of view nor even that of my family, ..... God bless my country and my race and all that live and grant that I may trust Thy Will and live so as to serve their best needs to my best ability."* (Deakin A).

Should we not be honouring our founding father's faith and prayers for this nation instead of dishonouring them? Should we not be confessing and believing that his prayers and faith in this great land - "South Land of the Holy Spirit" will come to pass! Professor Manning Clark says of this great Australian: *"Alfred Deakin was glorying in his God and... He believed the knowledge and love of God to be the foundation of all life and love and power. Apart from God, man's life was 'selfish mainly and sensual mainly - narrow, hard, harsh and discordant.' Alfred Deakin, a man who agreed with the Galilean that man did not live by bread alone....."* (Clark Professor M).

Deakin remains one of Australia's greatest Prime Ministers. He was a non traditional Christian whom the Lord was able to use to help draft the Constitution of this great nation, a constitution that acknowledges us as a Christian nation and relying upon the blessings of Almighty God. In 1901 the colonies ceased to be a group of separate entities and one of history's most successful Christian democracies came into being: *"Guns boomed: the band played the National Anthem....After hymns and prayers the clerk..read the Queens Proclamation:....Some believed in the goal of a co-operative Commonwealth under a democracy of man as declared ages ago by the 'good revolutionist of Nazareth."* (Clark Professor M). And Australia became a fully fledged nation, founded upon Christian principles!





Author at the site of Australia's first school, established 25/8/1793.

## Chapter 5

# The First Schools In Australia Were Christian Schools

*"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you. When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations..."* (Deuteronomy 32: 7-8).

*"It is not widely known that education in Australia was first established not by the government, but by the Christian Church.....the history of Australia's Christian dayschool movement is traced from its colonial beginnings to the year 1880 when government education officially began. The Bible-based church-related school of early colonial times was remarkably successful in meeting the academic and spiritual/moral needs of the younger generation of that day. It also shows that when certain principles undergirding this Christian school movement were disregarded, Australian education began to lose its dynamic. It is suggested that this Christian dynamic can and must be restored to Australian education today."* (Roberts A. S.).

### Australia's Christian School Heritage

*"I wish to advocate a system, not merely a system of education for the State, but a Scriptural education to train up, not moralists but God worshippers."* (Bishop Nixon, 1843).

The Rev. Richard Johnson, first Chaplain to the Australian colony, was deeply concerned about the moral state of the convict population to whom he had been sent to minister. Only three years after the colony's



settlement he began to examine the possibilities of providing Christian education. Johnson wrote home to a friend in England asking him to recruit someone prepared to establish schools for illiterate convicts in NSW: *"with the intention of bringing some of those unhappy wretches to a better way of thinking"*. (Johnson Rev R.).

There were difficulties in securing suitable schoolmasters during this early phase which occasionally led to the appointment of less than ideal personnel. However great care was taken and every effort made to ensure that those given the responsibility of the spiritual and moral education of the young were themselves sincerely committed to the kind of Christian position deemed appropriate for the task. Here are some little known and published facts about our nation's schools: *"Australia's first church building also served as a schoolhouse. It is not widely known that the majority of schools established in the infant colony were started by clergymen and supported by small grants from religious bodies and missionary societies."* (Partridge P.H.).

*"Nor is it widely realised that this phenomenon in Australia was but part of the great church-based day-school movement which developed in several democratic countries during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Puritans and Wesleyans like the Presbyterians of Scotland and the Lutherans of Germany and Scandinavia all established schools in which the Bible was the central study and textbook."* (Good H.G.).

Australian education, like America and a number of other countries, was initiated not by governments but by the Christian church. *"In spite of the difficulties it would appear that the majority of the early schoolmasters employed were Christians in their personal belief and commitment to the vocation. A number were in fact missionaries. Matthew Hughes, for example, was described as a 'sincere convert' who had previously been involved in the prayer meetings of John Wesley's people in Ireland."* (McLennan Dr. G.).

### **This Early Christian Education Was Successful**

*"The long tradition of schooling in NSW contributed its measure to the comparatively high level of literacy among the native born"* (Ibid).

Concerning moral behaviour there are several indications that the colony's native born children were generally held in higher regard and had a lower crime rate than did convicts, emancipists and free immigrants. Governor Bigg having observed evidence of moral growth in the native born, recommended that they be eligible for land grants, loans for cattle and they be called for jury service. Bigg's opinion was shared by many others. Peter Cunningham, in the 1820's, wrote of the colony's native born: *"....they are little tainted with the vices so prominent among their parents! Drunkenness is almost unknown with them and honesty proverbial; the few of them that have been convicted having acted under the bad auspices of their parents or relatives..."*

Sir W. Burton, Judge of the Supreme Court, indicates that he was impressed by the law-abiding nature of the native born and he wrote: *"There was not one of them ever tried before the writer for any of those atrocious crimes which are attributed to their country, but belong only to the convict class; nor did he know of any person born in the colony, being tried or even charged with, either the offence of rape or any other licentious crime; nor has he ever found any offence committed by any one of them, such as to call upon him to pronounce sentence of death; and no such sentence has ever been passed with his knowledge, or any crime committed with such a degree of violence as to justify it."* (McLennan G.Dr).

*"There are certainly a number of quite significant indications that Gov. Macquarie was correct when he claimed that the colonists were more regular in their Conduct, more temperate in their Habits and infinitely more Moral and religious than they were when he first arrived in the country. In addition to this, it would seem reasonable to assume, as did the Rev. Marsden, that there was some connection between the sobriety, honesty and industry of the native born and their education in Christian schools during this early phase."* (Ibid).

Australian education owes a great debt to the Christian Church. Why do we never hear that from the radical teachers and their unions? One does not have to be a rocket scientist to see how the behaviour and morals of our youth have declined almost in proportion to the lack of Biblical input into our schools.





King William Street - Adelaide Sth Australia 1879

## Chapter 6

# The “Christian State”

## South Australia

*“Posterity shall serve Him: they shall tell of the Lord to the next generation. They shall come and shall declare His righteousness to a people yet to be born - that He has done it (that it is finished).”*  
*Psalm 22:30-31.*

Few Christians in Australia are aware of the fact that we too, like the USA, had our “pilgrims” who ventured across the globe to start a new life for the sake of religious freedom. The state of South Australia was the only state that was settled by Christians and is another example of the spirit that motivated many of Australia’s early settlers. Charles Sturt, the man who opened up much of South Australia, prophesied that the men of this state would one day populate the heart of the continent and that Australian colonists would emulate the American colonists in their missionary zeal.

Manning Clark records in his “A History of Australia”: “.....there were men who believed God had a special purpose in the Christian settlement of Australia. Men such as the Permanent Under Secretary of the Colonies Office, James Stephen, who “believed that the government of men should conform to the government of God”, and encouraged Christian families to settle here, as well as being influential in the choice of Christian leaders in the colonising of the country”. (Clark M. Professor, Volume 2, page 83).

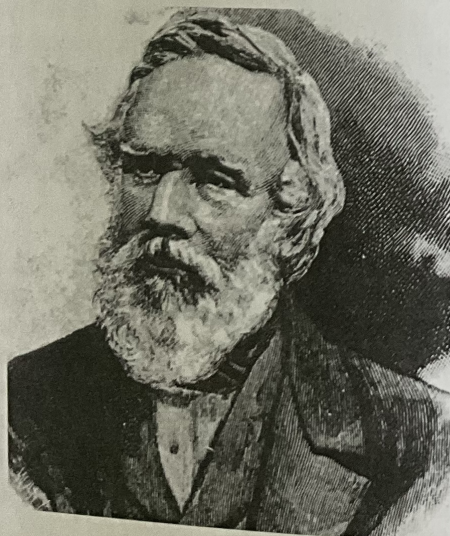


## My Wife's Ancestor Was The First Pioneer In S.A.

In 1836, South Australia's first pioneer ship sailed into Kangaroo Island, after a journey of 105 days. The ship's captain, Robert Morgan was a deeply committed Christian who conducted daily prayer sessions and Bible readings. The Captain also believed and claimed divine guidance for the voyage. On arrival rivalry broke out among the passengers for the honour of being the first pioneer ashore in the new state. Captain Morgan solved the dilemma by choosing a 15 month old baby girl - Elizabeth Beare - my wife Jan's maternal great, great Grandmother. Known as "Baby Beare", she was carried ashore and as her tiny feet were planted in the sand loud cheering broke out from the delighted passengers. It was a charming though unofficial little ceremony.

## George Angas - A Godly Founding Father

George Fife Angus was the type of dedicated 19th century Christian who fought against slavery, supported missionaries and believed: *"the hand of the Lord guided all of his dealings"*. He described himself as 'the agent of Providence'. Angas, a member of the South Australian Company, believed that God called him to found the state: *"Angas was a man who lived by the Bible and did good to many people, no man did more than he to get South Australia started and to save it from disaster in its infancy."*



George Angas

He said: *"My great object was.....to provide a place of refuge for pious Dissenters of Great Britain, who could in their new home discharge their consciences before God in civil and religious duties..... that South Australia will become the headquarters for the diffusion of Christianity in the Southern Hemisphere."* In 50 years Angas circulated over one million copies of scriptures, millions of tracts and two millions devotional books such as Spurgeon's *Morning by Morning and Evening by Evening*." (Paradise of Dissent, page 95).

*"In 1836 Captain John Hindmarsh, a devout Christian, became the first Governor, followed by another Christian, Lt. Colonel George Gawler. Gawler was a happy choice a 43-year-old hero of Waterloo, he arrived in S.A. in 1838 with his wife Maria, who was said to be a devout and earnest a Christian as Gawler himself ..... Angas rejoiced that a pious man had been chosen to make South Australia into that 'happy land' promised in Scriptures to all God's faithful children."* (Clark M. Professor, page 195).

*"To all his well -wishers Gawler offered the hope that the Almighty would reward them with blessings in the world to come. For his faith was all he had to give....When he boarded the 'Dumfries' on 22 June, Gawler was ready to devote the rest of his life to the salvation of his own soul and the souls of all men....He wanted to be known as the man who was not ashamed to confess faith in Christ.....a man who professed to love all mankind and to have compassion for 'the least of the little ones' because of the love of Christ."* (George Gawler).

Almost all the directors of the South Australian Company were lay preachers. Robert Gouger, who was appointed Colonial Secretary was a devout Evangelical and even Wakefield acknowledged that without Gouger South Australia would not have been settled. Charles Mann was another Christian and he was appointed the first Advocate General. He believed his purpose was to assist the settlement: *"with the Bible in one hand and an axe (to clear the wilderness) in the other"* (Manning Clark). It is obvious that the Lord was instrumental in the foundation of the state *"within 10 years, over half the population of the state were attending two of the denominational churches....and further church buildings were necessary. From its settlement in 1836 to 1915 Sunday School enrolments far exceeded those of day schools!"* (Paradise of Dissent).



### Australia's Pilgrim Fathers

Soon the state was attracting Christians because of its religious freedom: "A group of Lutherans who had been badly persecuted in Prussia arrived in the state in 1839. Their leader Pastor Ludwig Kavel, spoke for the group, when they swore allegiance to the British Crown, *"On our arrival here, we hailed this hospitable shore as a place of refuge to worship God without disturbance ..... We have found what we have been seeking for many years – religious liberty: we hailed that sovereign under whose direction we are now placed: we consider her and her Government as ordained of God, and with all our hearts we are desirous of being faithful subjects and useful citizens..we consider this also as a profession of Christ our Lord and Saviour, who, through the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, has created all thrones, dominions, principalities and powers, and who commands his followers to obey them."* (McLennan Dr. G).



German immigrant family wedding.

George Angas had been deeply moved by the plight of these German Christians and at considerable financial risk to himself, eventually financed all the ships to make the voyage. Angas had wanted honest, solid Christians and these characteristics were evident in the lives of these faithful Lutherans. He recorded in his diary: *"For the success of the colony I look only to God... If I only succeed in securing God fearing people, God will bless the land."*

Captain Hahn of the ship Zebra that transported these German Christians to their new home, was so impressed by these Lutherans that he wrote: *"I could not sufficiently admire the steadfastness with which these people had remained true to their faith after years of daily persecution, during which time they traveled for miles, hiding in the woods, to receive the Lord's Supper from the Lutheran pastors who wandered about as fugitives. In the absence of the pastors, those who considered themselves capable gave address to the others. This they did also on the ship.....seldom have I witnessed so touching a scene as when I saw in the evening the whole deck full of people on their knees beseeching God's blessing and protection for their undertaking. Every evening they made intercession for the king who had persecuted them."* (Shelton I).

One of these settlers wrote home to Prussia: *"Come to South Australia, where you will enjoy the freedom still denied you in Prussia. There is any amount of good land still available. If you come you will rejoice when you see the conditions prevailing in this wonderful land. You know I had exactly one shilling when I landed here. Now after one year in Australia, I own cows, pigs and poultry and above all a fine vegetable garden. Once more I say: come to this free land and share God's blessings with us."* (Ibid).

Today the state of South Australia still enjoys a rich heritage from its German Christian forefathers.



## Chapter 7

# Revival

### “Down-Under”



*The bush evangelist - it was these men and women of God who brought revival to the gold fields and remote areas of Australia.*

Most Australian Christians are completely unaware that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on their homeland. Many are more aware of the Azusa Street Revival in the USA and the Welsh Revival than they are of what has happened in their own nation. I myself have been guilty of preaching that “Australia has never had a real revival”. The truth is there have been five prominent revivals that have swept the world in the last 250 years. Of those five the last three were very prominent right here in Australia. **From the mid 1800’s the Holy Spirit has swept across Australia bringing revival - in fact, as I have already said, there have been over seventy documented revivals in this nation. Why not, after all this is the “Land of the Holy Spirit”!**

For instance, a powerful revival in Melbourne during the mid 1800’s was preceded by prayer, work, and unity. Every house in Melbourne was visited twice: “*God’s people were in earnest, the Holy Spirit was given His way and sway, and believers greeted each other with: ‘The big revival has begun. Glory to God.’ Attendances totalled a quarter of a million each week when the population of the whole of Victoria was only one million.*” (Hutchinson M and Campion E).

**That represents a quarter of the state’s population touched by the revival!**



"The first revival in Parramatta that I know of was in 1840... 'We are going to specially pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the revival of God's work... This is our plan; Every morning and evening and at midday to spend some time in pleading with God to pour out His Spirit... We carried out our plan for one, two, three weeks, no one but God and ourselves knowing what we were doing. At the end of the fourth week, on Sunday evening, the Rev. William Walker preached a powerful sermon. After the service the people flocked to the prayer-meeting, til the schoolroom was filled.... and I knew they had hold of God. We could hear sighs and suppressed sobs all around us... And oh! **The power of God that came upon the people, who were overwhelmed by it in every part of the room! And what a cry for mercy! It was heard by the passers-by in the street, some of whom came running in to see what was the matter, and were smitten down at the door in great distress.... How many were saved I cannot tell. Day after day and week after week the work went on, and many were converted.** Among them many young persons. Thank God when the children are saved... Many of the boys and girls converted in that revival at Parramatta are still members of the Methodist Church, and others are 'around the throne of God in heaven'. (Murray I.).

This revival was followed by others in Windsor in 1841 and then other places throughout the state: "**The 1902-3 tent meeting crusade in rural New South Wales, which resulted in the conversion of 25,000 was nowhere more wonderful in its manifestation than in the coal-mining villages of the Illawarra.... All the churches report, greatly increased congregations and increase in the membership.**" (Ibid).

### Revival on the Gold Fields

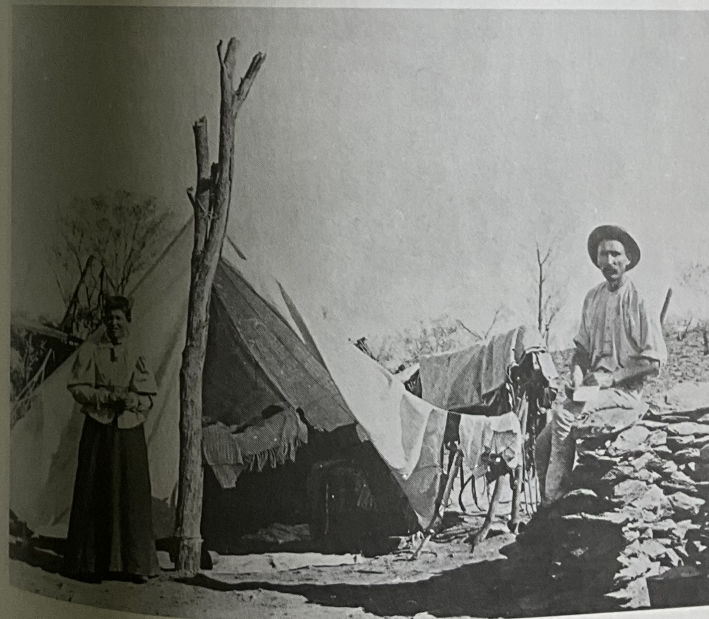
It amazes me to read about our "gold rush" days. Incidents such as the Eureka Stockade and the miners rebellion are common knowledge, yet incidents such as Holy Ghost Revivals have been almost lost. "**In this part of the gold fields I found five Wesleyan Chapels, or tents; one capable of accommodating 700 persons..... Not fewer than a hundred conversions to God had taken place..... The influence of the Christian Church is, in my judgment, the chief cause of the moral improvement which has taken place. Religion is everywhere respected, its ministers honoured, and all places of worship are well**

attended.... **'About six months ago, there was a great revival of religion at White Hills; some hundreds were converted to God.... Not a week passes without conversions to God.'**" (Ibid).

One preacher records having 1000 diggers worshipping in one of these gold rush revivals!

### Revival in South Australia

In 1862 the Rev. John Watsford was appointed to South Australia: "We had the church crowded Sunday after Sunday, and the Lord heard prayer, and in a very remarkable manner poured out His Spirit.... Sometimes as many as two hundred were present and each meeting was a time of great power... **The work was not confined to our meetings. Many in their homes, and their business, were arrested and began to seek God.** One evening about eight o'clock a young man came running to my house, and said, 'Come away, sir, and see my brother and his wife; they have been on the floor all night crying for mercy.'" (Ibid).



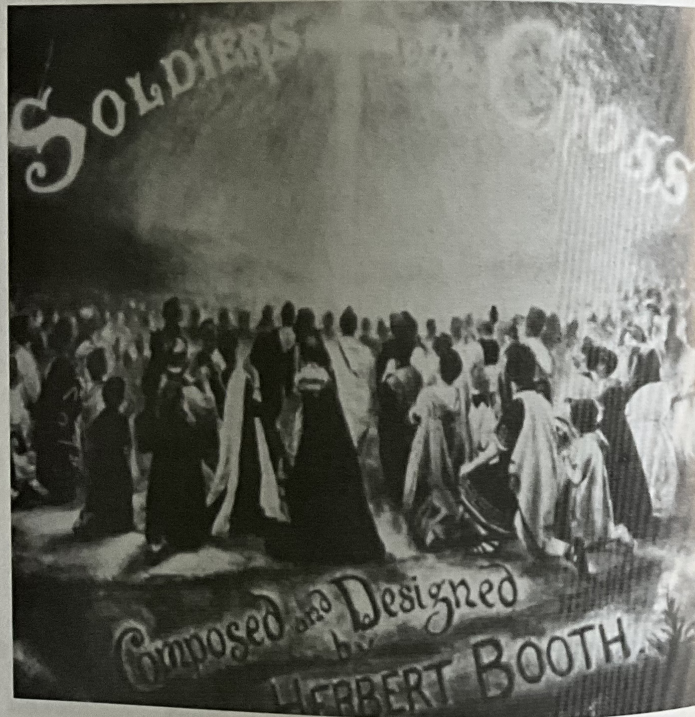
Gold Miners camp 1895



## Revival in Queensland

*"...in the case of Warwick, the Lord took the matter into His own hands, and by the gracious and wonderful visitation of the Holy Spirit a blessed revival swept the town. In every sense that was a remarkable spiritual movement. It represented Toowoomba's first baptism of fire. Spontaneous in its outbreak; natural, though rapid, in its development, its results were abiding. On my table there lies before me a list of 135 persons who, within a few short days, were brought to God. Within six months nearly one half the residents of that settlement (bush town) had made profession of Christ..."* (Ibid).

Edwin Orr says that during the 1850's the rising tide of prayer produced a flood of revivals throughout Australia.. The Victorian revivals began in Brighton in 1858 and spread to Melbourne where churches of all



*The First Movie - Soldiers of the Cross*

denominations joined in what God was doing. The Wesleyan Church was opened in Melbourne, it held 1700 people and was regularly packed to capacity. **I have read a newspaper from those days where it states that 50% of the city's population regularly attended church!**

The turn of the century saw the great Welsh and Azusa Street revival take place. But a full ten years before any of these happened a young Australian minister named John MacNiel and five men began praying in Melbourne for the Holy Spirit to move. Some writers believe that these were the initial prayer meetings that ushered in the later great revivals around the world. **Within ten years that prayer meeting had grown to 40,000 intercessors right across Australia - and revival came!** In 1901 in Sydney 300 ministers came together for special meetings to discuss soul winning and up to 10,000 people tried to get into the town hall. Orr writes: *"Contrary to common opinion in Australia the communities of the southern commonwealth had experienced phenomenal revival awakenings in its past."* (Ibid).

In 1909 J. Wilbur Chapman spent 16 weeks conducting revival meetings across Australia, his first meeting in Melbourne brought 10,000 people with overflow meetings also conducted, while 4,000 businessmen filled the Melbourne Town Hall for a lunch time rally! God was moving! The same minister held a "spontaneous" meeting in Sydney where 20,000 people followed him to the train to say good-bye! In a series of meetings held in Adelaide 114,000 (total) attended out of a total population of 140,000. That represents over 80% of the city being touched by the Lord!

## Australian Christians Made The World's First Movie

At the turn of the century the Salvation Army in Australia was on fire for God and with great zeal and energy launched itself into the film business. "Soldiers of the Cross" was the world's first full length film, comprising thousands of feet of film of the trials of the early Christian martyrs. It also included coloured glass slides during the reel changes with music and even featured a fiery evangelistic sermon by none other than Commander William Booth himself. Some 4,000 people attended the movie's premiere in the Melbourne Town Hall on the 13th September 1900. The film was full of action in which martyrs were beheaded, crucified, hacked to pieces, burned at the stake and fed to



wild animals. The feature was so life-like that women in the audience screamed and fainted. In fact the movie was such a success that the Army stepped up its publicity with such phrases as: *"Of interest to All Creeds", "A Colossal Success", "Never Before Witnessed in this or any other Country"*. The Christian movie received reviews in most of the major newspapers of the day including the *Age* and the *Argus*. William Booth purchased the rights to the film for just 300 pounds, one half of the estimated production costs, and exhibited it throughout the United States. Unfortunately all copies of the film have disappeared. But it shows the spirit of some of our godly forefathers!

### Divine Healing In The Anglican Churches

Churches in Australia have documented powerful moves of Divine Healing in their past: *"In a remarkable document signed by 20 bishops of the Anglican Church in Australia, is given a wonderful report of the miracles of healing manifested in the cathedrals of that church in various cities in Australia. In this report they say, '....The most marked groups after the mission, came from the parishes where wave of intercession had been the highest and wept furthestmost..... The world today is waiting for a fresh revelation of the presence and power of God in the work of the Church and in the life of its members. It has already seen and felt once more the wonders of Divine Healing'".* (Pp 169 "Christ the Healer" F.F. Bosworth).

### The Billy Graham Crusades

The attendance figures in the Billy Graham Crusades held during the 1950's are also breathtaking. Prayer meetings were set up two years before the evangelist arrived. On September 21st 1958 there were 4,000 people attending an all night prayer meeting all around Melbourne and Sydney. At the first Crusade held in Melbourne they had 10,000 people packing it out, while 5,000 more stood outside in the rain! **Due to the sheer numbers they moved the venue which eventually drew crowds of 60,000 people! Salvations ran into 1,000 and 2,000 people a night. Finally they packed out the Melbourne Cricket Ground with 143,750 people - a record that remains unbroken to this very day!** When Billy Graham spoke at the Melbourne University, renowned for its atheists and humanists, 300 students gave their life to Christ in one meeting! It has been these revivals that have kept our spiritual heritage alive!

### Our Forefathers Took God's Word To The Natives

As early as 1825 missionaries began working among the Aboriginal people. Edwin Orr records: *"It is a tribute to the vigorous Christianity of Australia that within a generation of the transplanting of the faith to the island continent the Australians were manning missions to Polynesia and Melanesia, sharing in wonderful revivals and perfecting great people movements to Christ."* (Orr E.).

### The Holy Spirit Falls On Arnhemland Aborigines

God visited the Aboriginal people with such a move in Arnhemland back in 1979-81. Healings, raising from the dead, people drunk in the Holy Spirit, laughing, falling, changed lives, changed culture, marriages restored, demonic practices ceased and the Lord appearing to the people. It happened right here in Australia!

Let me quote to you from "Fire in the Outback" by John Blackett. Keep in mind that these are not Pentecostal people and not used to moves of the Holy Spirit. *"Friday 6th April 'My first taste of this new move of God in Yolngu (aboriginal) fellowship. Find myself incredulous..... Hugs from men.....atmosphere of love. Can it be true? Power fell. Tears of relief. Gelung and Y drunk with the Holy Spirit. Praise you, Lord God almighty! The wave that's been building up for maybe a year is breaking.*

*The night fellowship meetings are the most charismatic I've ever been to in terms of knowing the presence of God - people in floods of tears as the power of God comes on them, others drunk with the Holy Spirit. The shouted praises from so many Yolngu, the passionate worship and adoration are unreal.*

*Reserves between black and white have melted away..... I've never known such a flow of love. G,Y and M are so high - everyone's united with their wives in a new relationship.....W is very ignorant - mystified - confused about Jesus as 'Coming King'. He thought the current outpouring of the Holy Spirit must be what's meant by Jesus coming back. The incredibility of this being only a taste of heaven was too much! Good Friday.....the meeting was high in worship. Wow! Was it high!"* (Blackett J).



### Petrol Sniffing - Alcoholism Rapidly Declined

*"..We used to love only our own people, families and own tribe more than other tribes - just a little bit for others. When God's Spirit came, He changed life. We loved each other, all tribes, more than we loved before. We loved, shared more. Our love expanded and our love and sharing and caring life expanded from here to other places.*

*Djilipa also talked about the change in people's lives in 1979. Petrol sniffing had been destroying people's brains and killing them, but it declined dramatically, as did consumption of alcohol and drunkenness. Vandalism in the community decreased significantly. There was also a new depth of relationship in marriages that could not be hidden. Some husbands and wives felt so close to each other that traditions were broken and they held hands in public.*



*Bush evangelists working with N.T. Aborigines at the turn of the century*

*Galikkali wrote: "One of the most significant outcomes.... it is the death blow to the custom of polygamy. So many couples have come together into a beautiful unity in Jesus.... always sitting together in the relaxed atmosphere of fellowship....but also in church. One of the nursing sisters reported big changes in health at Galiwinku ... There has been that kind of healing of people who needed tender loving care (who had) all kinds of physical symptoms from their inner problems - they are (now) healed. Sister Cheryl came in two days after the revival. "...Nobody's in hospital!"... She (usually) had five or six people who were drug addicts. All would ask for "Aspirin! ..... Tablets!" But when the revival happened there was no sign of those people at the health centre."*

### Jesus Appears To Girls

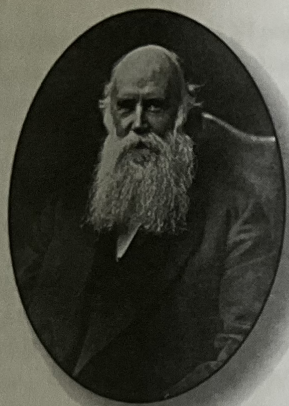
*"a group of girls at Galiwin'ku who were having fellowship under the trees, singing a song called 'I love you Lord', when Jesus appeared to them, standing under a tree. They all fell down, praising and worshipping God. A sick baby with them was immediately healed. While everyone was singing praise and worship, people were sometimes convicted of sins and went out shaking or crying..." (Ibid).*

*I know personally some of the people mentioned in this book. Some were even from my own Church. This is revival!*

### Australia Has Produced Some Outstanding Men And Women of God

*Many, in fact I would say most Australians are also painfully ignorant of some of our early preachers and clergy and the heritage of faith that these men and women of God have left to us. Some of the names of our spiritual forefathers that come to mind include men and women such as Samuel Leigh and the first Methodists, Jane Reid, William Macquarie Cowper, John Dumore Lang, John Watsford, William Hamilton, Irving Hetherington, William George Taylor, Jane Barker, Robert Blain. International men of God who have sown into our nation in the past include, Reuben Torrey, J. Wilbur Chapman, Charles Alexander and Smith Wigglesworth. Australia has produced some great men and women of God. But possibly the most well known (internationally) of the Australian ministries was Dr. Alexander Dowie (who went on to build Zion City in the USA).*





### John Alexander Dowie - The Healing Apostle

*"Few in our generation know of the fascinating and dramatic ministry of John Alexander Dowie. Undoubtedly, this man succeeded in shaking the world at the turn of the century. He brought to the forefront of society, the visible Church of the living God - primarily in the area of divine healing and repentance. Whether one agreed with Dr. Dowie or not, the fact remains that his incredible story is one of unflinching faith and powerful vision. Alexander Dowie's recorded converts numbered in untold millions. Although the end of his ministry is a tragic one, rarely has there been a mission containing more strength and vitality. His apostolic ministry was a world changing ministry.....Against hypocritical, opposing clergy, fierce and slanderous tabloids, murderous mobs and relentless city officials, Dr. Dowie wore his apostolic calling as a crown from God and his persecution as a badge of honor." (Liardon R, page 21).*

Dowie immigrated to Australia from Scotland with his parents at the age of thirteen. He began to earn his living in the shoe business and soon proved he was "more than ordinary" at business. Dowie had suffered from sickness most of his life but was healed after reading it was God's will for him to live in health, not sickness. He entered the ministry with the Congregational Church in 1875 and later took over a larger congregation in the Sydney suburb of Newtown. An epidemic of the plague broke out and within a few weeks of taking over his new church he had buried over forty members of the congregation who had died from the disease.

Dowie sought the Lord desperately for an answer. God answered those prayers and his life and ministry changed forever when called to the home of a child. Dowie began to pray and take authority over the sickness. Turning to the mother, who had enquired if her daughter was dead, Dowie replied: "No...she will live. The fever is gone!" Soon the young girl was up and about and Dowie prayed for other members of the same family and they too were healed. From that moment on, the plague was stopped and Dowie lost no more members of his congregation from the epidemic.

In 1878 Dowie left his denomination and rented the Royal Theatre in Sydney for his services. Hundreds flocked to the meetings, but unfortunately the finances did not meet with the demand and to continue with the meetings he had to sell his home and furniture.

Dowie's strong preaching and denouncing of the evils of the day stirred not only the people but also the local clergy and extreme persecution broke out. However his leadership and moral stance was gaining him national influence and he was persuaded to run for Parliament, a move which failed largely because of the violent opposition which was mounted by the publicans, alcohol industry and press. These people poured untold amounts of money into a campaign to slander him.

In 1880 Dowie returned to his calling to preach divine healing, something he had neglected during his political and moral campaigning, and again thousands were healed under his ministry. The harassment and persecution did not cease, however. A bomb was planted under his office and only the divine intervention of the Lord saved his life. Dowie was studying when he heard a voice command him to "Arise, go!" That leading of the Holy Spirit prevented a catastrophe, but the bomb exploded and destroyed his office.

In 1888 Dowie moved to the USA where he soon began holding healing crusades, despite the still constant attacks upon him. One city, Chicago, has never before or again been so touched by a man as they were by Alexander Dowie. Thousands flocked to his healing meetings and he opened a number of healing homes. As a result the medical profession and some "religious" churches mounted a campaign against him, obviously because of the financial loss they were incurring.



Although Dowie was constantly arrested and fined he had a profound influence on the people of the USA. That influence even extended to Presidents, as he met and prayed for President William McKinley, offering him a prophetic warning about his life. Unfortunately the warning was not heeded and the President was later shot dead.

Dowie established Zion City outside Chicago but his ultimate dream was to build his headquarters outside Jerusalem. In fact he hoped to raise the money to purchase Jerusalem back from the Muslim Turks and the Jews, which was obviously a delusion. One may not be able to follow Dowie's doctrine but one can certainly admire and follow his faith! *"Without a doubt, John Alexander Dowie succeeded in making the Bible alive to untold millions...He had his failings, but from his influence came many great men of God. His ministry produced John G. Lake, the great apostle of South Africa; F. F. Bosworth, whose healing campaigns touched untold millions...Charles Parham, 'The Father of Pentecost' ...."* (Ibid).

Sadly, today few Australians would even know Dowie existed or that our nation has been touched by the Holy Spirit in revival many times.

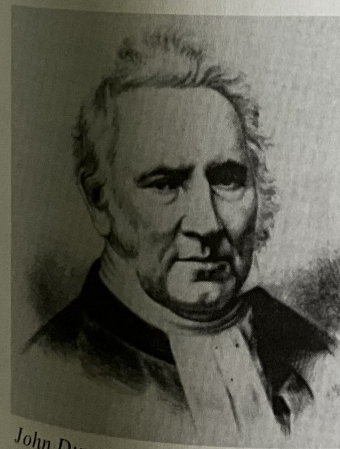
Others of our founding fathers that carried the Gospel to this land include, the Reverend Joseph Orton (known as the John Wesley of Australia), Daniel Draper, John Dunmore Lang, Samuel Leigh, Thomas Gainford and William Longbottom.

In 1838 Rev. Longbottom, accompanied by his wife, set out in the tiny thirty five ton vessel "Fanny" for Western Australia. The boat was shipwrecked off the South Australian coast in the midst of a fierce storm of hurricane force. Kneeling together the Longbottoms committed themselves to the Lord and then swam ashore through the pounding surf. Reaching the beach totally exhausted the couple spent the night cold and wet before waking to find themselves surrounded by Aborigines, who only two years afterwards would massacre the entire crew and passengers of the ill-fated *Maria*.

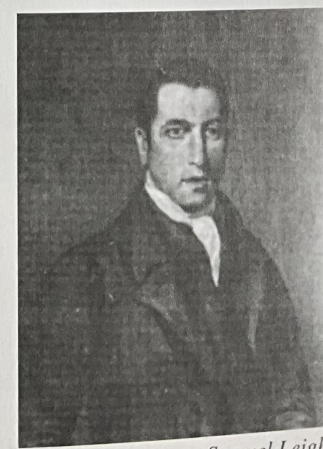
After spending some seven weeks in the South Australian bush the couple were rescued and the Reverend Longbottom went on to minister the Gospel to the people of the state of South Australia.



Daniel Draper

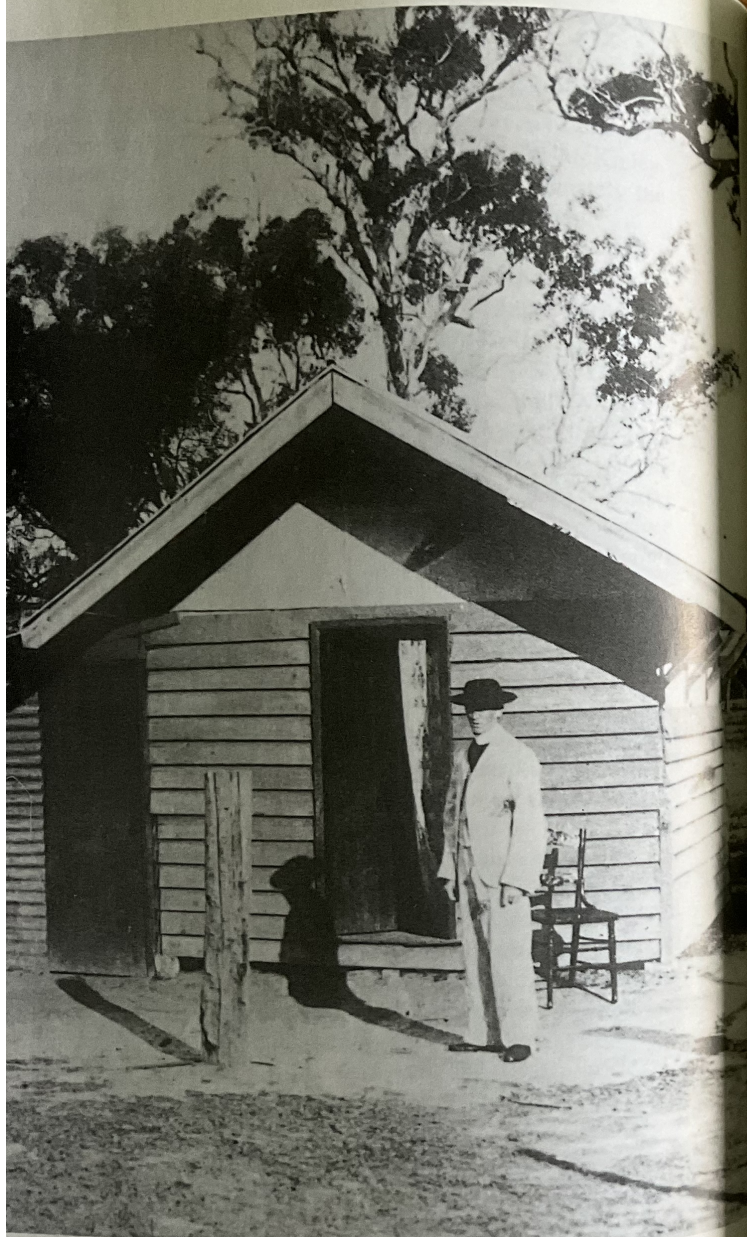


John Dunmore Lang



Samuel Leigh





*Bush Pastor standing outside his country church - circa 1890's*

## Chapter 8

# Common Misconceptions About Australia

*"Our civilisation, its politics and its art, grew up in the context of Christianity. Even those ideas which are in rebellion against Christianity defined themselves by their relationship to Christianity. Increasingly, however, we are becoming a people cut off from our own past."* ("The Australian" December 24th-25th 1988).

May I just be forthright and say that we have been misinformed about our heritage and our Christian forefathers. Having made that statement I need to substantiate those claims. It is very fashionable today to "bash the church". People are quick to write and voice their horror about how the early church and professing Christians beat and punished the convicts and there are the flood of current accusations of how they all mistreated the Aborigines. I am so tired of half truths, exaggerations, misrepresentations and lack of honour for our Christian forefathers. True, there were sincerely regrettable abuses, man's inhumanity to his brothers - regardless of colour or race. However, one must remember the days in which these people lived were far different from those of today's "enlightened" society. **A sadly neglected fact is that it was most often these very men and women of God that helped those who were being oppressed, often standing between them and a violent death at the hand of some bloodthirsty mob.** I refuse to allow the good name and the heritage of my spiritual forefathers to be slandered and maligned by people with an axe of hate or racial division to grind or a particular political agenda to push. It is not only dishonourable, it is a dishonest distortion of history!



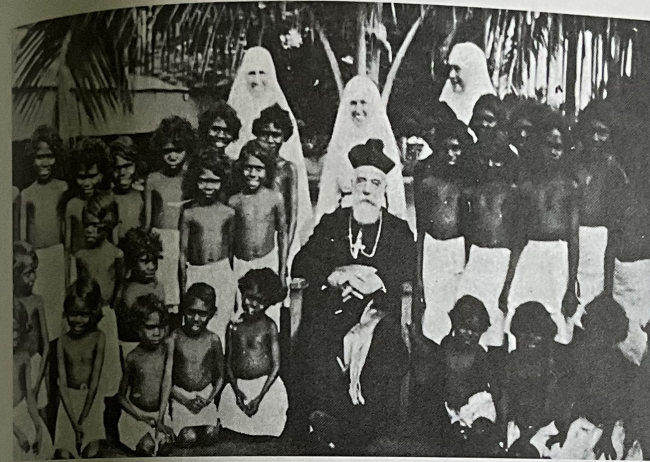
How many Australians are aware of the many wonderful missionaries and ministers who gave their lives for the Aboriginal people they loved? For instance, a school for Aborigines was opened in Parramatta in 1814 by Governor Macquarie. It was his Native Institution. William Shelley, an ex-missionary was the school's first headmaster. If all these missionaries exploited the indigenous peoples, how is it that a fourteen year old girl from the school won first prize in the public examinations, defeating all the white children in the colony?

*"In April 1819, prizes were distributed to the European and Aboriginal schoolchildren who had excelled in the early rudiments of moral and religious education. The Sydney Gazette stated it was pleasing to remark that a black girl of 14 who had been in the school for three or four years had won the first prize." (Clark M Professor, page 72 Abridged Edition).*

### Where Is The Honour Due Our Christian Forefathers?

I believe that many Aboriginal people's ancestors owe their lives and survival to some of our wonderful and often maligned Christian forefathers. Where is the honour due to these people? I was recently speaking with a minister of the Gospel who had spent years among the Aborigines of Central Australia. He told me that some of the tribal elders had shared with him privately, and very intimately, just how grateful they were to the early missionaries. *"If it had not been for those missionaries,"* he said, *"they would have wiped us all out. It was these men of God that stood between us and annihilation!"*

Professor Manning Clark even acknowledges this: *"In the caves of Arnhem Land where Aborigines had painted on the rocks their pictures of the creation, of the meaning of life, of all the beauty in the world, a new figure appeared on the rocks. It was the white man firing a gun from his shoulder. The Bulletin seemed to enjoy believing that the Aborigines were a dying race, but it was irritated with the parsons, the priests and the do-gooders, who seemed reluctant to accept the inevitable... What maddened the Bulletin was the tears from the advocates of the universal embrace. The bishops, the clergy, and all the other creeps had never been brave enough to say they wanted more Binghis in the world. To be born Binghi meant being black and often naked." (Clark M Professor, page 484).*



*Bishop Gsell and some of his "150 wives".*

For many of these wonderful men and women of the church the stand they took to protect the Aborigines from victimization, exploitation and often death won them little gratitude from either black or white, a trend that obviously continues to this very day! Such is the case of Bishop Gsell of the Northern Territory, the "Bishop with 150 wives", as he was described by the press. The good Bishop purchased young Aboriginal women who were being forced to marry old men, against their will. The Bishop would pay money to secure the freedom of these young women and then grant them their liberty, or allow them to live at the mission stations until they were old enough to choose for themselves. It is a sad state of affairs when some of the staunchest allies of the Aboriginal people are today being vilified and attacked by the political activists of the very people they sought to protect.

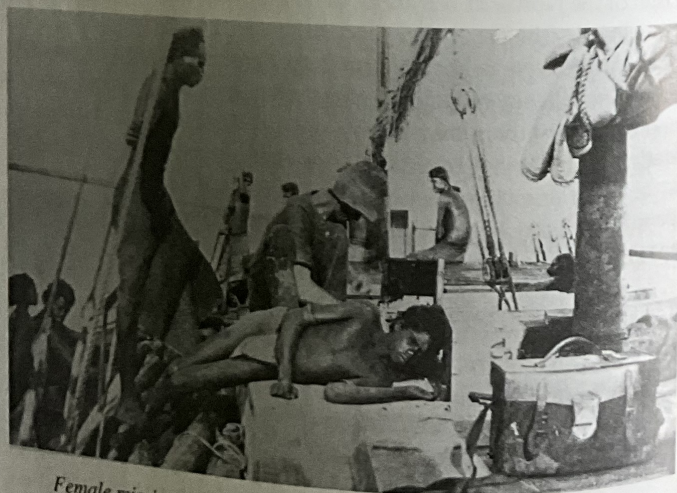
Listen to these words from A History of Australia: *"...an immigrant and a parson who wrote of Australia as a land of hope. He was John Dunmore Lang that fiery particle whom the members of his church associated with some lively images from the pulpit each Sunday....In 1826 he published his book of verse, 'Aurora Australia: or Specimens of Sacred Poetry, for the Colonists of Australia' in which he invoked..." (Clark M. Professor, Abridged Edition, page 146-147)*



*"Australia! Land of hope!  
From Superstition's snare  
And Slavery's chain,  
To set the wretched free;  
'Till Christian liberty,  
Wide o'er the Southern Sea,  
Triumphant reign!"* (Ibid).

Why don't we hear more of the "good and the positive" deeds carried out by the Church and the early missionaries (which far outweigh the bad)? Why are so many politicians, journalists and political activists quick to denigrate and attack these wonderful men and women of the church who did a marvellous job in a very hard, and violent society? Why do so many conveniently "hide" or ignore the facts to press their claims or push their particular agendas? Certainly there were abuses and there still are, but why major on the bad and conveniently leave out all that was good?

Let men like Captain Charles Sturt speak for themselves: *"It was Sturt who in February, 1834 wrote to the Colonial Office. 'He prophesied that the men of South Australia would one day people the heart of the continent and that the Australian colonies would emulate America.*



*Female missionary attends the sick aboard a mission lugger - N.T.*

*He urged them to convince the Aborigine that the white man was coming as a brother. He urged them, too, not to give the Aborigine trifling presents but to protect him against violence and aggression, until that day when as children of the same Heavenly Father, they had all learned to look at each other with love and charity."* (Clark M Professor, Volume 3 page 46).

Do these sound like the words of a man who hated or wanted to exploit the Aborigines? How many of our political activists could look into their own hearts and find true love and compassion such as Sturt held for his black brethren? And what about the famous explorer Edward John Eyre. Let him also speak for himself: *"But when he saw that his policy of non interference was successful, he allowed his natural curiosity more vent. He became a meticulous observer of Aborigines and deplored violence against them. 'It is lamentable', he wrote later, 'to think that the progress and prosperity of one race should lead to the downfall and decay of another.'"* (Eyre E).

Do these sound like the words of a bigoted racist or a man who loved the Aboriginal people? Certainly Aboriginal Australians have their heritage, as do folks from British, Irish, German or Chinese descent. What I am suggesting is that for Christians, irrespective of colour or race, we teach and major on our Godly heritage! The Bible does say that there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek. If we are Christians then this is our "Godly heritage" regardless of colour or race.

Can you imagine what it must have been like for people such as Richard Johnson, after being raised and trained in sedate England, to uproot himself and his wife and travel for a year on a convict ship to the other side of the world to devote his life to the dregs of society? Yet even the humanistic press of the day could not resist an opportunity to slight such men of God, accusing Samuel Marsden of having no interest in the plight of the Aborigines. Yet the facts bear out that Marsden was a wonderful, compassionate and godly man, who started the first schools and hospitals in the new colony. In fact the roots of **all schools and hospitals (and some Universities) in Australia can be traced back to Christians.** It was out of compassion for their fellow man that these institutions were founded.



How convenient for many in our modern society to forget these facts! Even the first police magistrate in Melbourne was a Christian, a man named Lonsdale. He became the first President of the Bible Society who not only gave Bibles to the settlers, but would actually meet the convict ships at the dock and hand a Bible to every convict that came ashore. God has always been a big part of this nation.

Cook was another who was lied about and whose name, until this century, was maligned and blackened. Yet Cook's humanity and love for the natives is well recorded. When he landed in Australia he stopped his marines from shooting some potentially hostile Aborigines.

### Many Of Our Industrial Founders Were Christians

Most Australians are unaware that some of our greatest industries were started by devoted Christians. An example is one of the nation's oldest newspapers, the Sydney Morning Herald. In 1841 John Fairfax and Charles Kemp purchased the paper. John Fairfax was the senior deacon of the Pitt Street Congregational Church, also helping to establish this Church. Fairfax was a devout and committed Christian who was also president of the Young Mens Christian Association. Charles Kemp, his partner, was one of the country's leading laymen and he helped establish Moore Theological College and was a major fund raiser in the 1860's for the building of Sydney's St. Andrews Cathedral.

Kemp continually acknowledged God's blessings upon his life as he had arrived in NSW in 1831 as a destitute immigrant. Kemp was also a man of prayer and like Fairfax was sustained by a strong faith in the Lord. Upon his death people said that *"He was a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit."* One of the previous owners of the paper, Warwick Fairfax, is also a devout Christian.

### Australians Have A Spirit Of Compassion

Men like Johnson, Marsden, Sturt and Eyre were also men of great compassion who have passed that seed on down through the years. There is a spirit of compassion and acceptance on this nation! As I have already said earlier, it bothers me when I hear people say that there is a spirit of rejection on this nation. That is not true! No country on earth has received more immigrants (per head of population) than Australia.

Australians have always been known as people that believe in "a fair go" for everyone. In fact, let me say, I believe Australians are the least racist people in the world! Think of this, Australia was founded by thousands of English and Irish convicts. There were 160,000 convicts shipped here from 1788 up to 1860. After having served their time these men and women were free to pursue a new and better life. They became settlers, businessmen, cattlemen miners and preachers! In fact, after serving their time, the British Government gave these people thirty acres of land and fifty acres if the person was married and an additional ten acres for every child. Then came the waves of immigrants during the gold rush days of the mid 1800's. Later, after both wars we had wave after wave of immigrants from war-torn countries.

No country opened up their borders more than Australia did. Half the people living in this land are first or second generation immigrants! This nation took in the boat people from war ravaged Vietnam and other places in South East Asia. Why? Because of the spirit of acceptance that is on this nation that was handed down from our Christian forefathers. Every person that immigrates to this wonderful land has a unique opportunity to be and do whatever their heart desires. You can feel the liberty in this great nation!

Every man of God I have ever spoken with who has come to Australia to minister has said "I can sense there are such great possibilities in this land!" What could they sense? I'll tell you what it is - it is a future and a hope! Australia's greatest gift to the world has been its compassion. In fact this is the land of the "fair go mate!" This is the greatest country on the face of the earth. Let's stop selling our heritage!

### Australians Are Generous Givers

Another popular misconception is that we are a nation of stingy people. I have even heard preachers say that this land was born with a "poverty mentality" because of our convict past. Well I reject that outright. It simply is not true! Those people are sadly misinformed. I remember Brother Lester Sumrall stating that **Australians were among his best supporters for his "Feed the Hungry Campaign"**. Whenever there is a disaster anywhere in the world Australians are always quick to respond. I believe **one international organization that supports children in Third World countries, rated Australians as the**





second best givers in the world, just behind Canada in #1 spot. Does that sound like people with a “stingy” spirit? In 1974 my family and myself were victims of Cyclone Tracy. We lost our home and much of our clothing and personal possessions. We were evacuated to Adelaide where we were inundated with kindness, charity and support such as I have never ever experienced before. And it’s not because Australians have more money than others, but we do have a spirit of compassion and acceptance. Ponder on these facts for a moment. Per head of population Australia takes more refugees and migrants than any nation on earth! In fact Australia has been, and continues to be, a huge blessing to the world far in excess of its size and age! Why? Because of the spirit of compassion that was brought to this land by our Christian forefathers!

### The Australian Spirit

The Australians of the new colony soon began to develop a distinctly “Aussie” character or spirit. We have always been a “no nonsense”, down to earth people, in that respect we still have great difficulty with people full of themselves or “hype”. Christians, and especially clergymen in the young colony, had to prove themselves. Mal Garvin writes in his “Understanding and Reaching Australians”: “...My guess is that one of the reasons we have a great vacuum at the centre of our consciousness is that we’ve been robbed of our social history. From the beginning we were taught to look at ourselves through British eyes, and I would

like to suggest that the first Australians were not convicts but those who identified themselves as Australians. They are a group of people who are, by and large, missing from the traditional histories of our countries, but are in fact alive and well in the early documents..” Former Chancellor of Sydney University, Sir William Cullen, spoke of the pioneers as: “men who.... left behind them descendants who had shown that, in physique, in spirituality, and in intellectual power Australia need not fear the future in competition with other parts of the world. Such pioneers were men and women who did not believe the 20th century view that Australia’s first needs are for ‘men, money and markets’. Rather they took their priorities from the Bible and, trusting in the God whom they knew in Jesus Christ, they believed that the best way to build a nation is to serve God and live for eternity.. true Christianity was once a vital power in this land and that it can be so again.” (Murray I.).

### Australian Personalities Are Turning To God

For years now we have produced some of the best sportsmen and women in the world, far in excess of the size of our population. At the time of writing Australia has world champion teams in rugby, cricket, surfing, men’s and women’s hockey, women’s netball, Davis Cup tennis and baseball. Many of the “high priests” of the “god of sport” are giving their lives to Jesus. Stars such as Margaret Court (the greatest woman tennis player, and now pastor of a great church in Perth), Betty Cuthbert (won more Olympic gold medals than any other Australian), Darren Beadman, former Wallaby Captain Nick Farr-Jones, Paul Stevens and many of our top rugby players are openly declaring their faith in Jesus. My son Shane (World power lifting champion in his class), is a born again believer. Jessie Martin - lone teenage world sailor who spent 326 days at sea - told a radio interviewer: “*This is a bit of a test of my faith really. I don’t know what was going to happen to the ship... I’m glad to be out here and know that God’s looking after me.*” Jessie went on to add that being alone at sea gave him opportunity to read his Bible and be alone with his thoughts. Numbers of entertainment and political figures, both past and present have openly confessed their Christianity including media mogul Mike Willesee, twice Prime Minister of Australia and founder of the Liberal Party, Robert Menzies (1894-1977). Menzies has been described by historian Ian Breward as a “symbol of Protestant values”. Although he did not publicly display his faith (like many Aussies),



Menzies was active in the Presbyterian Bible Class Movement. Others, including former State Premiers Sir Charles Court and Bjelke Petersen, have been outspoken about their Christian faith.

Numbers of outstanding leaders have also been open to the Lord, for instance Field Marshall Lord Montgomery - the famous allied World War II leader - spent the formative years of his life here in Australia. His father was a missionary to this country. Let me quote the Field Marshall: "The foundation on which we build our post-war civilization must contain a good leavening of spiritual matter, if we build only on material matter, we shall fail." (page 23). "First, - **Such men must have faith in God and they must think rightly on the moral issues involved.**" (Page 54). "In the Eighth Army the inspiration had its roots in my call to the soldiers of Alamein: 'The Lord mighty in battle, will give us the victory.' .. 'The special glory of the whole endeavor must be.....worthy to be the prayer: **'Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered.'**" (page 55). "I do not believe that today a commander can inspire great armies,..... and lead them to achieve great victories, unless he has a proper sense of religious truth: and he must be prepared to acknowledge it, and to lead his troops in the light of that truth.... For all leadership, is based on the spiritual quality, the power to inspire others to follow; and this spiritual quality may be for good or may be for evil. .. For leadership which is evil, while it may temporarily succeed, always carries within it the seeds of its own destruction." (Page 80 Field Marshall Montgomery).

### East Timor Hero - Major General Peter Cosgrove

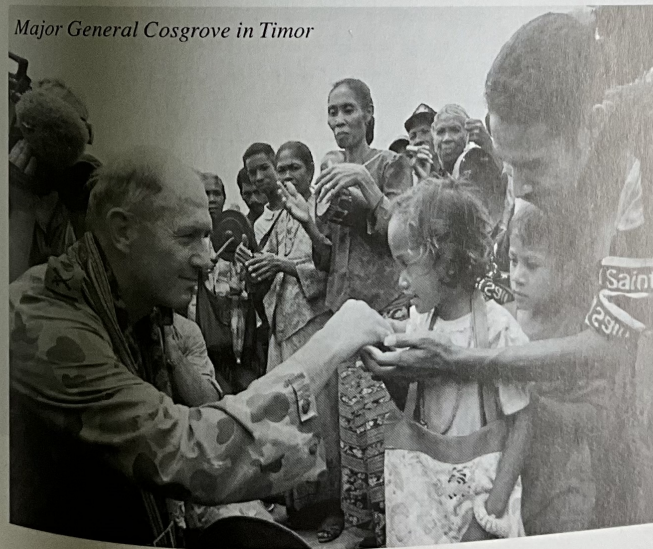
Major-General Cosgrove AC, MC - Land Commander of Australia-successful leader of Interfet - the 12,000 troops from 22 nations - sent to aid the people of East Timor, had this to say about his Christian faith: "Leadership must spring from an inner core of integrity and morality. You can only build leaders from a good foundation of character. **In my opinion, people of rock solid character are generally people who have a simple but solid faith in God.** You can have a leader who has other charismatic type gifts and qualities, but if the core is flawed or deficient, they will never truly be successful. They might succeed temporarily, but in the long run they won't have the inner resilience of fortitude to endure under constant pressure.....**As a Christian, the crimes and offences we witnessed were deeply offensive to me.....most members of the international force - Christians and non**

**Christians - were disturbed and offended by what they saw....As a Christian, the right thing - to do was to help the people in need."**

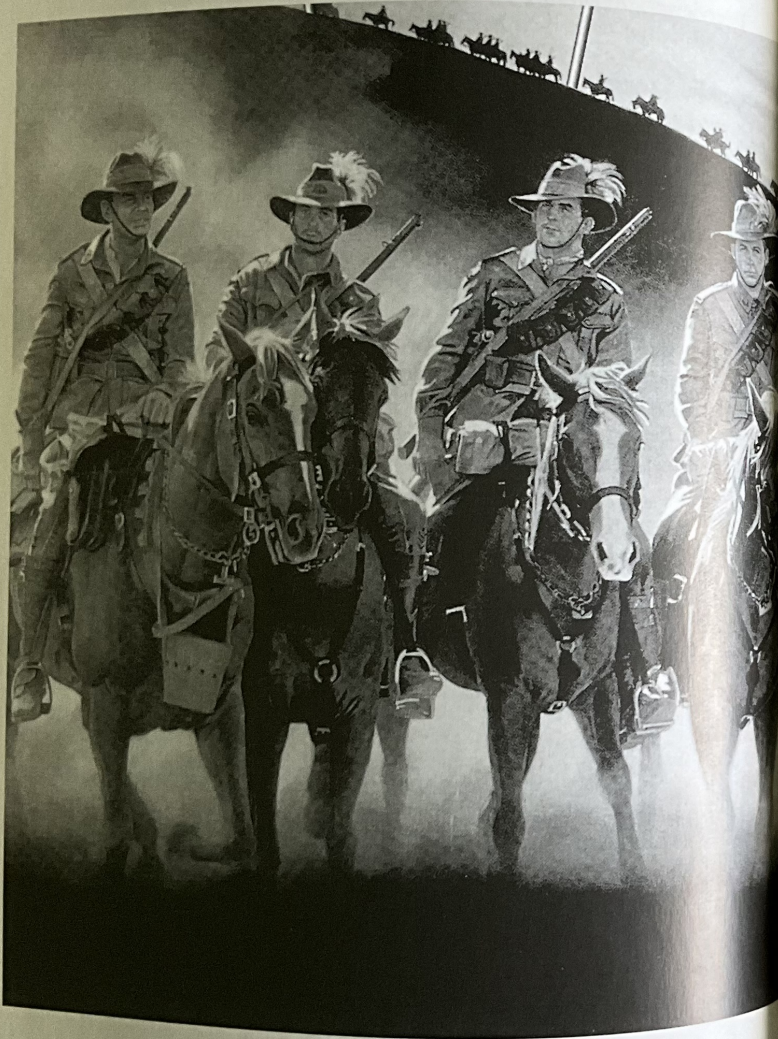
Interviewer: "Regarding your personal faith, were there times during the campaign when you had to draw off God for your strength?"

General Cosgrove: "There were times when I had to rely on God. I never knew from day to day what disaster might befall us, so I continually had to look to the Lord for personal fortification, uplift, encouragement and inspiration. I found that through prayer, personal reflection...Often I found great encouragement from people who would be entitled to despair, and yet still maintain their faith in God....One incident touched me deeply. On the third day of the operation, I saw an Australian Sergeant with his gun slung around his back playing street cricket with a group of children. The kids were smiling and laughing. They had met a soldier who was there to uplift them and protect them, not hurt, restrict or repress them...There were many servicemen and women who fell back on their faith in God.... The situation in East Timor brought many of them back to their fundamental beliefs and moral values and their personal relationship with God. **An individual finding strength in their personal relationship with God is always something that is to be applauded.**" (June/July 2000 issue Outreach Magazine article by Willum Bellaard).

Major General Cosgrove in Timor







## Chapter 9

# The Lighthorsemen Jerusalem's Liberators

### God's History Makers - The "Mad Aussies"

As I have already stated, most Australians are unaware of their rich heritage, such as the fact that it was the Australian Light Horsemen who were predominantly instrumental in the liberation of Jerusalem (God's chosen city) from centuries of rule by the Muslims. This fact is even more astonishing when we realise that this is something that the combined forces of Europe, during the eleven Crusades of the Middle Ages, the might of Napoleon (the greatest military genius to live) and the British Army, were unable to achieve.

Jerusalem - City of God, City of Peace, City of David. No city on earth has ever been more fought and disputed over than Jerusalem. As the Roman Empire declined, Muslim invaders began to move in and occupy the vacuum. Waves of Muslim warriors from Mahomet himself to Abu Bakr and Saladin the Great, carried their "Jihad" (holy war) to the gates of the Holy Land and beyond. Soon, not only all of the Middle East, but much of Europe, lay under their cruel control. A little known fact is that it was their intention to wipe Christianity from the face of the earth and this plan came perilously close to fulfillment.

In 1095 Pope Urban the second delivered an address that launched the first Crusade. He declared of Jerusalem, *"This royal city..... is in subjection to those who do not know God, to worship of the heathen. Therefore, she seeks and desires to be liberated and does not cease to implore you to come to her aid."*



What followed was the first of a series of tragic blunders. Eleven bloody crusades took place in a quest to liberate Jerusalem from its Muslim conquerors.

### **The First Crusade**

In 1099 Godfrey of Bouillon and his knights conquered Jerusalem, following a five week siege. There followed the wholesale slaughter of the city's inhabitants, including all of its Jewish citizens, many of whom were burned alive in their synagogues. The defeat stung the Muslim empire into retaliation and in 1187 Saladin defeated the Crusaders, re-entered Jerusalem, stripped the cross from the Dome of the Rock and destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Jerusalem was to remain firmly in the hands of the Turks for a further 800 years, right up until this century when 800 "Aussie" Light Horsemen - "God's History Makers" - rode into history and opened the gateway to the chosen city..

### **Napoleon Bonaparte**

In 1796, the military genius Napoleon Bonaparte landed in the Middle east, with an army determined to liberate Palestine (including Jerusalem) from its Muslim masters. At first things went well and he triumphed at the Battle of the Pyramids. His victorious army then pushed on into Palestine, even after his fleet was sunk by the British at the Battle of the Nile. Confident of ultimate success Napoleon issued a proclamation to the Jewish people of the world, urging them to return to their homeland, as he intended to restore the nation of Israel once he conquered Jerusalem. Unfortunately his army was defeated at Accra by a much larger Muslim army and he was driven out of Palestine.

It appeared as though Jerusalem could not be liberated. In fact, apart from two minor periods when the Crusaders entered the city it had been under Muslim rule for centuries! In 1914 World War 1 began, with Turkey entering the fray on the side of the German/Austrian alliance. Australia declared war on these powers and immediately began to raise an army to send to battle. Part of this army was the famous "Australian Light Horsemen". Everyone of these mounted troops was a volunteer, a superb horseman and crack shot. Most were raised in the rugged Australian bush. Easily distinguishable by their slouch hats, sporting emu plumes, the Australians were noted for their good humour under almost any conditions, their boldness in combat and sense of "fair play".

These rugged horsemen lived by an unwritten code of ethics - you never left a "mate", no matter what the cost! After several years of fighting the Anzac Desert Mounted Corps had pushed their way from the shores of the Suez canal deep into the waterless Sinai desert, much to the surprise of the British, who were content to remain on the defensive, and their Turkish enemies.

### **Beersheba - Well Of The Oath**

The key to the liberation of Jerusalem were the Gaza - Beersheba fortifications. Beersheba, meaning "well of the oath" was so named by Abraham in the book of Genesis. The well had provided water not only for Abraham, but for Moses and David. Any army approaching its life-giving wells has to march for days through the waterless Sinai desert. Despite constant assaults by the combined forces of the British and Anzac forces, the place could not be taken. Then came the fateful day of October 31, 1917. General Allenby was desperate after 50,000 British infantry with tank support had been driven back into the desert. With the sun about to set and with no water for many miles, they faced disaster. The Australian Light Horse Commander Chauvel's orders were to storm Beersheba. It had to be won before nightfall at all costs.

Chauvel concocted a bold plan. Why not let his 800 horsemen charge the Turkish artillery? A cavalry charge across 6000 yards of open terrain straight into the face of the massed Turkish guns. Some 4600 Turkish troops were already entrenched in anticipation of the attack - odds of six to one in their favour! Behind them were nests of machine guns with interlocking fields of fire and behind that artillery commanded by battle hardened German officers. The whole plan sounded like a recipe for disaster. No wonder the German commanding the defences described the Aussie Light Horsemen as "madmen!"

But left with virtually no alternative the desperate General gave the order. The young men mounted their magnificent "Walers" and lined up to face the Turkish guns. There they waited, faces bronzed and tanned from the desert sun, emu plumes fluttering in the breeze, rifles swung across their backs and bayonets in their hands. History was about to be written, these men were about to commence the liberation of Jerusalem! Let me quote from my book "800 Horsemen - God's History Makers": *"The wells had to be taken and by nightfall. Repeated attempts by*



British infantry had been thrown back with heavy losses by a firmly entrenched and determined enemy. Brigadier-General Grant of the 4th Light Horse stepped forward to speak to the Commander of the Desert Mounted Corps, Lt.-General Sir Harry Chauvel. "I believe we can take the town!" he quipped to Chauvel. The Australian Commander replied, "And how do you propose to do that?" he inquired. "A cavalry charge sir! But I must have a free hand!" Chauvel hesitated for some time and then turning to his staff he barked the order that would change the course of nations. "Put Grant straight at it!"

Then came the historic command "Mount!" Almost as one 800 horsemen swung into the saddle of their trusty "Walers" and trotted forward in precise formation. Ahead, some six kilometres across the open plain, lay 4,600 seasoned Turkish troops in their trenches.... Heavy machine guns were sighted in such a way as to sweep the entire approach and to the rear stood the artillery, manned by seasoned German gunners who had been given ample time to sight their guns onto every square yard of approach to these ancient waterholes. And all of this was being attempted by men in 50 degree temperatures riding horses, many of whom had not tasted water for between 48 and 70 hours!

The Australians paused nervously, their huge war horses snorting and stamping in anticipation, the very air pregnant with tension and excitement. And then came the order: "Forward!" Almost as one the big war-horses surged forward. On they came - like fearsome ghost riders, their silhouettes etched against the crimson sky and swirling dust, their unsheathed bayonets flashing. The thunder of hooves echoed across the desert, striking fear in the heart of the Muslim soldiers. As one the Anzacs broke into a gallop and surged forward, their distinctive emu plumes fluttering from their slouch hats. The dust billowed up in clouds, masking their approach and blinding every rider until all they could make out was the horse and rider directly in front. Laughter and "Cooee", (the yell of the Australian bushman) could be heard above the crescendo of hooves.

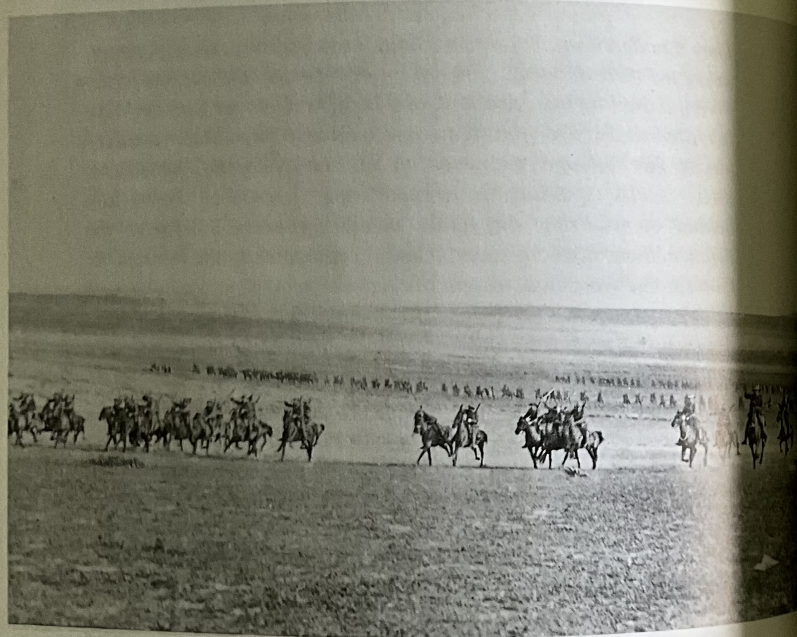
Three batteries of Turkish heavy guns opened fire on the advancing horsemen. The first shells roared overhead and exploded in a burst

of smoke and flames. Horses reared, men shouted - some fell, but the squadrons thundered on. Adding to the noise and confusion were the German aircraft as they swooped in low and began to rain bombs down on the charging ranks. As one horse or rider went down the remaining riders leapt their faithful "Walers" over their fallen mates. Riderless horses swept along in formation, their hearts bursting in a desperate and valiant attempt to keep pace with the rest of the troop. One man said he could feel the concussion blasts of the shells on his face.

They thundered on, horses snorting, lungs bursting, veins popping, wild eyed men shouting - but not for one moment did the line falter. Five hundred metres, one mile and then the German gunners were horrified to discover that they were unable to adjust their artillery pieces fast enough to range in on the galloping Australians, their shells passing overhead and exploding harmlessly behind them. From the flanks machine-gunners took over the defence, their staccato sound adding a new pitch to the battle. One man's horse was shot straight through the head, sending horse and rider crashing to the ground in a confusion of arms and legs. Another Light Horseman recounted how he could hear the machine gun bullets whistling past his horses ears like "angry bees". But it had no effect on the galloping horsemen. Seemingly nothing could stop them as they swept on "in magnificent order". Once committed there was no turning back. This was the magnificent flower of Australian manhood, many lying flat along their huge pounding war-horses' necks, shouting words of encouragement to their beloved mounts. It was a grand, grim, magnificent scene. One observer described it as "the most beautiful sight I ever saw!"

By now the first squadrons of the charging horsemen had reached the two mile point and this began to rattle the Turks in the trenches. They could see the wild Australians bearing down on them with incredible speed. The Turks knew the Australians by reputation when it came to hand to hand fighting. Some, wild-eyed with panic broke and ran. They could hear the wild bush yells, they could see the flashing bayonets, and then the huge horses leapt the first trenches. Imagine if you can the magnificent effort of these men and horses.





Actual photo of the famous charge that would fulfil Bible prophecy and change the world forever - Australian War Memorial photo

After days without water, after being bombed and shot at and after charging across three miles of desert sands, despite the combined weight of rider, rifle, ammunition and personal belongings these magnificent horses steeple-chased over the enemy trenches. The riders hurriedly dismounted and leapt into the trenches, eager to come to grips with "Johnny Turk". Screams added to the din as the fate of not only the battle, but ultimately a nation, hung in the balance. History was being made that day. British officers, observing the wild charge from the sidelines, leapt to their feet and broke into wild cheers and applause. Squadron after squadron thundered over the trenches and into the town. Squadron leader Lawson would be recommended for the highest decoration of valour - the Victoria Cross.

As the last of the sun's rays began to slip from the desert sky, Beersheba, the key to the Holy Land, was firmly in Australian hands and thousands of men and horses from the Anzac Desert Corps were watering at the "Well of the Oath". For the first time in centuries the road to Jerusalem was open and the Muslim stranglehold on the Holy Land was broken. What eleven bloody Crusades, the military genius of Napoleon and the might of the British Army had been unable to achieve, had been accomplished by 800 young fresh-faced Australians. God had used one of the smallest and youngest nations in the world as His spearhead to open the gateway to His chosen city - Jerusalem. **And Australia was just 16 years old as a nation!**

The British Commanding General remarked, as he walked over the ground where the charge had taken place, "Words fail me. I cannot see how these men were able to achieve what they did. Every rule of war says that they should have been annihilated!" (Stringer C, page 82-86). In a letter to the Light Horsemen, he later wrote: "**The Australian Light Horsemen has proven himself equal to the best. He has gained the gratitude... and the admiration of the World.**" While British Poet Laureate - John Masefield added: "**They were the finest body of young men ever brought together in modern times. For physical beauty and nobility of bearing, they surpassed any men I have ever seen. They walked like kings in old poems. There was no thought of surrender in those marvellous young men. They were the flower of the world's manhood, and died as they lived, owning no master on this earth.**"



*"Beersheva, the town associated with the Jewish patriarch Abraham thereafter became a strong connecting point for Israel, the British and the Anzacs. For on the day that Beersheva was captured, the British War Cabinet agreed to what has become historically known as the Balfour Declaration - the promise of a Jewish homeland in the Land of Israel, then known as Palestine." (Crombie K).*

Many of these young Light Horsemen were deeply and visibly moved when they realised how they had been used to open the gateway to the Holy Land. Many of these men carried Bibles in their packs and furthermore they used them: *"Biblical scenes and events...crowded the minds of men as they fought for and gained place after place of which they had heard from their parents and ministers. It was not unusual for the officers to inform their men regarding the historic significance of the places before they were taken. This is no romantic nonsense, but can be discerned by reading the diaries that many soldiers kept. Major John Robertson said in his book 'With the Cameliers in Palestine': 'I have seen a group of a dozen men lying around a trooper who had a copy of the Bible, and who was reading out the story of Samson at Gaza.'" (Adams A. Page 71).*

### Visions of Angels

With the battle for Jerusalem approaching a feeling spread from trooper to trooper and padre to padre that biblical prophecy was about to be fulfilled. One of the most extraordinary aspects of the liberation of Jerusalem (largely as a result of the Anzacs involvement) was the claim by many of the men that they had seen visions of angels: *"From the Lt. General Sir Harry Chauvel down through the officers and the troopers, visions of ancient buildings, strange animals, lighted villages and angelic beings were witnessed en masse. During debriefing, the stories of hundreds of men were corroborated through cross-checking examinations. As there was no logical explanation, officially the incident was recorded as 'lack of sleep'.....Reports of angelic beings appearing during the fighting occurred right up to the cessation of hostilities in Palestine in 1918. They are too numerous to detail....Statements were also taken from captured Turkish and German officers who had witnessed the same manifestations. General Allenby called for detailed reports and interviewed some witnesses himself." (Ibid - page 155).*

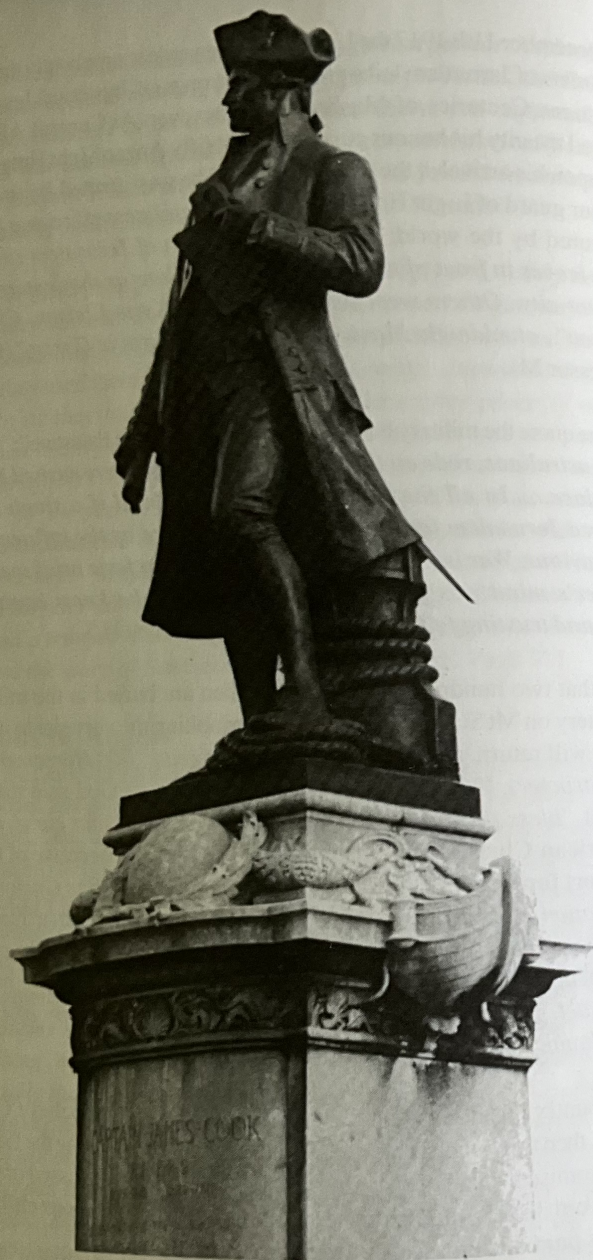
On December 11th 1917 the Light Horsemen rode triumphantly through the streets of Jerusalem to be greeted by throngs of hysterical Jews and Christians. Centuries of Muslim rule were over. As General Allenby entered the city his honour guard included fifty Anzac Light Horsemen and upon his arrival at the Citadel of David he was greeted by another honour guard of Light Horsemen! Their magnificent effort was being honoured by the world: *"In 1917, the women of Jerusalem strewed palm leaves in front of the victorious Australians as they entered the ancient city...Others wept as monks sang, 'Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison', at midnight Mass, to celebrate the birth of Christ." (Clark Professor M).*

Let me quote the military book "The A.I.F. in Sinai and Palestine": *"....As the Australians, rode on through the streets, they were rushed by the populace.....In all that great army it is doubtful if a single man entered Jerusalem for the first time, untouched by the influence of the Saviour. War is not a Christian mission. But for a brief spell the soldier's mind was purged of grossness, and he knew again the pure and trusting faith of his childhood." (Gullett H.S.).*

Few that two hundred of these young men are buried in the military cemetery on Mt Scopus (Jerusalem) overlooking the very site to which Jesus will return. (For further information read "800 Horsemen" by Col Stringer). In Genesis 12, (speaking of Israel) God said that He would *"bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you."* **American Christians believe the USA is blessed because of their support for Israel:** *"President Truman said to David Ben Gurion and the nation of Israel, 'Come, I'll walk you into the United Nations and see you are seated' At that moment, the USA picked up its major prophetic assignment: becoming the official sponsor of the nation of Israel. This role brings our nation under the canopy of God's Abrahamic blessing." (Sutton H).*

No country has blessed Israel like Australia - so, if we believe God's Word, then this nation is blessed. Should we not be reminding the Lord of His promise instead of speaking curses? This nation is blessed of God. His Word declares and promises it! **Should we not teach our children this is part of their Godly Heritage?**





*Captain James Cook*

## Chapter 10

# You Were Born For Such A Time As This

I have already said, God has given me a great love for my land and I desire to see it fulfil its God given destiny. Our national heritage is something that I care passionately about. It bothers me when I hear people putting down this great land by describing us as just "descendants of convicts". I do not answer to that heritage anymore and I hope this book will convince you to do the same!

It was on a trip to Europe that the Lord began dealing with me about Australia's heritage. Jan had wanted to visit Europe for some time. She comes from Austrian/German ancestry and wanted to visit the land of her father and to see some of her heritage. I was amazed as I fell in love with the rich history of England and its Christian heritage. We visited thousand year old cathedrals and castles with their battle flags and pennants. I loved the place! I love Wales - what a heritage! The Welsh Revival, the Wesley Brothers, Smith Wigglesworth are just some of the rich British ancestry they have been blessed with. We visited Germany, Austria and France and again I was thoroughly enthralled with their rich legacy and heritage. The Guttenberg Bible, Martin Luther, the Reformation and the old cathedrals and churches. I thought about the places we have visited within the USA with its rich Christian heritage - the Mayflower and the pilgrims, Charles Finney, the Azusa Street



Revival, the Pentecostal Movement, Kathryn Kuhlman, Amie Semple McPherson, William Branham, Kenneth Hagin, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts and many others. Somewhat disheartened I thought about Australia's apparent lack of Christian heritage, after all there was very little I had ever been taught at church or at school about any such thing. But it was then that the Lord began to take me to task.

## We Have Been Limiting God

The Lord began dealing with me about the fact that we Australians had been limiting Him in His desire to use this nation and how we had been stifling His plans. He began to show me through His word that not only did I have a spiritual inferiority complex but so did much of the nation! Ephesians chapter three verse twenty says: *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"*

Look at this, it says "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think". The word "exceeding" means to go beyond given or presupposed limitations.

Psalm 78, verse 40 says: *"How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel."* Two words leap off the page here, **"grieve"** and **"limit"**. Anytime we limit God we grieve Him! How we must have grieved, quenched and limited the Holy Spirit in this land because we have allowed ourselves to be put down by believing that we are all descendants of a "bunch of convicts and crooks". We aren't convicts, we are conquerors in Christ!

Australian Christians have allowed themselves to be discriminated against. We are constantly "indoctrinated" by the vocal minority groups - the plight of the homosexuals, the anti uranium lobby, Aboriginal land rights, the unions and the environmentalists. Yet **never** once have I heard anyone stand up for the right of Christians and the fact that we are constantly being discriminated against and our rights trodden underfoot!

Well, I believe that the "silent majority" has been silent for too long. It's time to stand up and be counted. It's time to speak up and be heard. It's time to tell the world that this is a Christian country with a Christian

heritage! We are not a Muslim country, we are not an atheistic country nor a Buddhist, Hindu, Taoist or New Age country - we are a Christian country founded on Christian principles and governed by a national constitution that is founded on Bible principles!

## A Christian Nation, Founded On Christian Principles

James Madison, Father of the Constitution of the USA said in his Memorial and Remonstrance of 1795 that: *"religion... (is) the basis and foundation of government... Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe."* Madison went on to add: *"These words are found throughout official documents and statements of our Founders. Sometimes they are called 'Morality', 'Knowledge', and 'Religion' ..... 'Religion' meant Christianity, 'Morality' meant Christian character. 'Knowledge' meant Biblical world view. These were consistently emphasized by our Founders as the indispensable foundations or supports of our system of government. If they are lost, then our nation will eventually collapse."* (Beliles M. and McDowell S.).

If I were the devil and wanted to destroy this nation, here's how I would go about it:

- \* I would take God out of the schools.
- \* I would delude the people into thinking that they were blessed by their own effort, instead of by God.
- \* I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership.
- \* I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the life of a whale was valued more than a human being.
- \* I would teach the children that they are evolved from apes, consequently they are not responsible for their actions.
- \* I would invent drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to promote them so as they would be "socially acceptable" and desirable.
- \* I would gain control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member.
- \* I would attack the family with "with it" ideas such as that debauchery and rampant sin were merely "alternative life styles".



- \* I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation!
- \* I would encourage people to express their depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens, and call it art.
- \* I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agenda as politically correct.
- \* I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naive.
- \* I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional.
- \* I would "outdate" a nation's heritage, its flag and ridicule its traditions and Godly heroes.

### The Danger In Forgetting Our Christian Heritage

If a nation forgets its Christian heritage and history and is ignorant of the Bible principles upon which it was founded, that nation is in danger of losing its freedom. In fact such a nation is like a ship without a rudder, a horse and rider without reins. We must teach the younger generation their Christian heritage and not leave it to teachers to omit such information because of their religious beliefs (or lack of them)! We must stand up for our heritage and freedom or risk losing it! It is frightening to see what can happen to a nation that forgets its Christian heritage. Nazi Germany is a horrendous example. On a recent visit to one of the Nazi death camps I was deeply moved by what I saw and read. As I stood in the gas chambers where thousands were murdered, looking at the photographic records of the pitiful faces gazing down at me, including many born again Christians - my eyes fell on a plaque that read. *"Those who forget their history are bound to repeat the same mistakes"*.

After World War I Germany virtually became a fatherless nation, almost an entire generation of males had perished in the war. Without fathers there was no one to teach the German children their heritage thus creating a climate for the rise of the demonic leader Hitler. Adolf Hitler, as so painfully remembered, was able to use his knowledge of German heritage and history to enslave its youth through the Hitler Youth Movement, and eventually the whole nation. Hitler said: *"A man who has no sense of history, is a man who has no ears or eyes"*. (Kubizek A.).



*"Hitler himself claimed to have a passionate interest in history since his schooldays and he displayed considerable familiarity with the course of European history. His conversation was studded with historical references and historical parallels. More than that: Hitler's whole cast of mind was historical, and his sense of mission derived from his sense of history."* (Ravenscroft.T).

The communist leader Karl Marx said: *"A people without a heritage are easily persuaded."* The communist dictum was "Capture the youth and you capture the nation." It happened in Germany and Russia through war and it is happening in Australia but this time through moral abandonment. My prayer with this book is that it will help Australians to shrug off their "ball and chain" mentality and stop limiting the Lord from moving in this "South Land of the Holy Spirit". The devil would love to keep us in ignorance about our rich heritage but the truth will set you free. We have a wonderful Christian heritage, a heritage of which we can be proud! **Let me add that when I speak of our Christian heritage I am not speaking only about an Anglo-Saxon heritage. It doesn't matter what colour, class, or race - there is neither Jew nor Greek. I am talking about our Australian Christian heritage!**

### Esau Sold His Birthright - His Heritage

Birthright (the passing of the Father's blessing) is very important to God. The first born son inherited a double portion of the inheritance as well as the blessing of the father. We see this with Abraham passing it on to his son in Genesis 25:5 *"And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac"*.



But in verses 29-34 we see where Esau sold his birthright, inheritance or heritage to his younger brother Jacob for nothing more than some stew. *"And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright be to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day: and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils: and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright."* From then on the blessings ceased to flow to Esau and flowed to Jacob. It was he who handed those blessings or the heritage on to Joseph.

I repeat, few people look at Biblical faith as a heritage, but God does! He says: *"I am the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob"*. He speaks in terms of generations. He speaks of fathers who pass on their spiritual heritage from generation to generation. Why? Because He is establishing a heritage of faith. God did not say He was the God of Esau. Why not? He was the first born son and justly entitled to the blessing, but by selling his birthright he forfeited all rights to that heritage! Malachi 1:2-3 God says: *"Yet Jacob I have loved But Esau I have hated,"* While Hebrews 12:16-17 says: *"lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected."*

### Many Australians Have "Sold" Their Heritage

Many Australians place little value on their Christian heritage, often selling it for short term gain. These are critical days for our nation. There are moves afoot to strip this "South Land of the Holy Spirit" of its Christian (and British) heritage.

Let me quote from the book "Understanding Our Christian Heritage": *"Some may even be tempted to doubt that anti-Christian humanistic forces could grow so powerful in Australia, even in a republican Australia. But consider what Manning Clark is quoted as saying about the late Lionel Murphy: '.....it had been one of Murphy's aims to dismantle the Judeo-Christian ethic of Australian society.' (page 8 Sydney Morning Herald, 30/10/86).* Murphy's protege, Gareth Evans, a former president of the humanist society, and architect of the proposed "Bill of Wrongs",

was himself once quoted as saying: *"children want a right to sexual freedom and education and 'protection from the influence of Christianity."* (Page 11 Sydney Morning Herald 7/5/76).

It's time to stand up for our families. We want Australia back from the people who proclaim that wrong is right, that abnormal is normal, that drugs and debauchery are simply "alternative lifestyles"! If the humanists have their way they will change our constitution, remove all references to God and allegiance to the Queen (who gives allegiance to Jesus Christ) and change our flag and national anthem. In fact they would sell our entire Judeo-Christian heritage. If such a scenario took place (and I believe it is the duty of every born again Christian in this land to pray and work to see that it does not) this nation, like Esau, will have sold its Godly heritage for "pottage". **Genesis 27:40** says: *"..... and you shall serve your brother. And it shall come to pass, when you become restless. Then you shall break his yoke from your neck."* Because Esau sold his birthright, his heritage, he ended up in bondage to his brother. His brother's yoke was around his neck.

### Bondage To "Big Brother"

There is a biblical analogy here for Australia. If we "sell" our Judeo-Christian heritage we too will be in bondage to another. Big brother? The United Nations, that's who! I suggest to you that we would end up with the yoke of some godless, humanistic organisation or political party thrust around our neck. And there it would stay until we became "restless" enough to break free. Or until we became tired of having some overseas organisation dictating our lives and policies to us. Would it not be far better to never "sell" our heritage in the first place?

### Other Ways Australians Have Sold Their Heritage

Numbers of ministers leave their native shores to pursue their calling in North America. Some even go to the extent of saying it is "the call of God", to do so. But in many cases I have found that the "leading" was not the Lord at all, but simply their own desire to "make it big". I know because I did the very same thing. I heard one minister say, tongue in cheek, that you can live in the USA, out of the will of God, and it can be five years before you catch on! Now don't misunderstand me, I don't say this to criticise, I certainly believe there are ministers that are genuinely called of God to leave these shores. **But it also occurred to**



me that the Lord was unlikely to "call" 95% of the preachers to minister to just 5% of the world's population (North America)! That only leaves 5% of the ministers to bring the Word to the remaining 95% of the world's population. Some have "sold their heritage" for pottage! The deciding factor is the heart motive. Only the person involved can answer the question. It's not my place to judge anyone, but I do believe some have stars (and stripes) in their eyes. The irony is that we already live in the greatest country in the world. (Time magazine conducted a poll some years back that revealed 8,000,000 Americans seriously considered immigrating to Australia.)

### Young People Are Selling Their Heritage

Many of our young people may not actually leave their native shores but have still "sold their heritage". They dress like overseas movie and pop stars, they act like them and they even try to talk like them. Few of their heroes are Australians. Many are dissatisfied with their lives in Australia. Numbers of Australians have come to me weeping as they confessed that they had "sold their heritage". They had succumbed to the idea that America was the best, that anything Australian was inferior or second rate. It has been our national "inferiority complex"!

I am not knocking Americans. The fault does not lie with them but with us! I think the United States is a great and wonderful country and they are certainly justified in the pride and patriotism they display. Some of my closest friends hail from the "Good Old USA". I greatly appreciate our wonderful American brethren who have sown so much of the Word of God into this nation and I value their assistance, their fellowship and their instruction. My "roots of faith" have come from such ministries as Rhema (Brother Kenneth Hagin), Kenneth Copeland, Jerry Savelle, Happy Caldwell and many others. I love, deeply value and honour these men and women of faith and they are dear to me. My family and I pastored for two years in the USA. There is so much that my American "fathers of faith" have taught me and I appreciate it very much **But** my heritage is Australian! I am proud to be an Australian. I love this land. This is the land where I was born, my forefathers before me were born and **I refuse to sell that heritage for "pottage"!**

Why have so many young Australians lost their hope and direction in life? Because like Esau, they have sold their Christian heritage, their

birthright for "pottage" or short term thrills and gain. Like Esau they saw no value or held little respect for their Australian heritage.

### Many Of Our Youth Have Lost Hope

Some time ago I listened to a talk back radio program. A teenage boy, obviously distraught, was talking with the radio announcer. *"I need help!" He said, "I am scared. How do you live in a world that is going to hell fast? My whole world is disintegrating, its going down the toilet. I'm an eighteen year old living in a world that has gone nuts, it's insane, it makes no sense at all!"* And then he said something that I have heard over and over from the youth of our nation, *"I have lost all hope, there's nothing to live for!"* Is it any wonder when so many of our young people have sold their Christian heritage by turning to eastern religions such as Transcendental Meditation, yoga, martial arts, Buddhism, Islam and even the occult! For whatever satanic reason, eastern religions have held a fascination for our young people. It has destroyed their hope!

### The Jews Have Never Lost Their Heritage

Sometime ago I was standing in the Charles De Gaulle Airport in France watching a group of Orthodox Jews board a plane for Israel. As I stood there the Lord spoke to me, pointing out to me how these people had not lost their heritage, their roots or culture in over 2,000 years of dispersion. No matter where they have been scattered they are able to retain their Jewish roots, their heritage and even many of their customs. Most nationalities are assimilated in their host country's society within just one or two generations of them moving.

For instance when we lived in the USA I spoke to some expatriates whose children had very little knowledge, love or interest in their parent's native land. They were, by their own admission, Americans. But for the last 2000 years Jews have been scattered right around the world. They can be found in Russia, the USA, France, UK, Australia and even the Orient, yet they always remain Jews. They may be Russian Jews or Australian Jews but they are still Jews with passionate ties to Israel! Two thousand years of persecution, dispersion, and even Nazi death camps have not been able to change that. Even non religious Jews still maintain a certain amount of their culture and heritage. How have they of all ethnic groups been able to achieve this result with their young people?



The key, God told me, is they teach their children their heritage. They never let them forget their roots. Before a Jewish boy may celebrate his Bar Mitzvah he must be able to quote at least some of the Bible. The principle the Jews follow can be found right here in Psalm 78: "O my people, listen to my teaching, ...I will teach you hidden lessons from our past - stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children but will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord. We will tell of his power and the mighty miracles he did ...**He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children**, so the next generation might know them - even the children not yet born - so they in turn might teach them to their children. So each generation can set its hope anew on God, **remembering his glorious miracles** and obeying his commands." (Psalm 78: 1-8 NLT). **The key here for the parents is to teach the children their heritage, while the key word to the children is "remember".** Why do we need to remind them? **"That they may set their hope in God. And not forget the works of God."**

### Esther Saved Her People

In the story of Esther we find the exact opposite of Esau's dilemma. It is the story of a Jewish girl who was raised by a relative, one of the nation's leading men by the name of Mordecai. Esther, the beautiful Jewess, soon caught the eye of the king and he married her. Esther concealed her Jewish heritage. (Esther 2: 16-20). The king's main leader, Haman, was an unscrupulous man who tricked the king into signing a decree that all the Jews were to be killed. Mordecai then came to Esther imploring her to go before the king and plead for the lives of her people - the Jews. However to come before the king if not summoned could mean death.

In Esther 4:13 Mordecai speaks these prophetic words to her: "...Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. **Yet who knows whether you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this?**" Mordecai was showing Esther that she was born for such a time and if she were to forget her heritage - her people, the Jews - then God would still save them but she and her house would be lost. God considers our heritage as very important. Esther could have turned her back on

her people and "sold her heritage". The king was so smitten with her beauty that he offered her anything she wanted, up to one half his kingdom: "*when the king saw Queen Esther...she found favor in his sight...And the king said to her, 'What do you wish, Queen Esther?...It shall be given to you - up to half the kingdom!'*" (Esther 5:2-3).

Esther could remain silent and live comfortably for the rest of her life. The king did not know that she was a Jew with a death sentence hanging over her head. Her reply to the king is found in Esther 7: 3: "*Then Queen Esther answered and said, 'If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated....'*" Her answer continues in verse 6: "*For how can I endure to see the evil that will come upon my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?*" The king was infuriated. Who would dare to do such a thing? He asked Esther who it was and she named Haman. The story ends this way: Haman the plotter was hung upon the very gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Mordecai was promoted to replace Haman, while the Jews received "*light and gladness, joy and honour.*" (Esther 8:17 NKJ). The Jews were so blessed that many of the people converted to Judaism while Esther was held in honour by the people and loved by the king.

### We Were Born For Such A Time As This

This is a vastly different story and ending from the one we read about Esau! But look at Mordecai's words to her in Esther 4:14: "**Yet who knows whether you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this?**" Esther was placed by God in a strategic place for such a time. You and I were born into the kingdom for such a time as this. This is our destiny in God! I love the words of this song:

*"I have a destiny I know I shall fulfil,  
I have a destiny with a city on a hill,  
I have a destiny, its not an empty wish  
For I know I was born for such a time as this."*

That could be a prophetic word to us. I am astounded at how little Australians know about their Christian heritage. No wonder Australian



youth have such horrendous drug and suicide problems. Many of our youth leave these shores to seek a more "exciting" life overseas. Hundreds waste their lives on drugs, sex and crime, or bludge on the beach. The flower of our youth is being lost. But we can change it!

Recently I watched a program about some African Rangers who wanted to cull an elephant herd that had outgrown its habitat. Thinking that the best course of action would be to shoot all the older beasts and spare the younger ones, they proceeded to eliminate all the old males and females of the herd. Some time later they were astounded to discover the juvenile beasts had developed a radical change in their behaviour. In fact the young elephants began killing animals such as rhinoceros and gazelles - something that was unheard of previously. Also the young elephants were poisoning themselves by eating the wrong foods and were rampaging through towns and being shot by the locals. **The rangers concluded that because all the older beasts had been killed off there were no role models left.** There were no older beasts to show these younger ones the best food to eat and the traditional migratory routes to take. In other words the young beasts did not know their heritage or normal elephant behaviour. As a result, their whole society was affected and was in danger of breaking down. Does that sound familiar?

### Churchill Was Raised By A Christian Nanny

There is an old adage that says "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world". Winston Churchill is a classic example of this principle. It was neither his mother nor father who formed Churchill's character and



Winston Churchill

influenced his beliefs, but his Godly nanny - Elizabeth Anne Everest. It was she who taught him to pray and memorize scripture. She also taught him his Godly British heritage. Churchill was so inspired by his heritage that he wrote a six volume biography about his ancestry. His studies helped shape his life and ultimately affected the entire world through his leadership during the dark days of World War II.

### Churchill's Views On Heritage

*"One of the signs of a great society is the diligence with which it passes culture from one generation to the next. This culture is the embodiment of everything the people of that society hold dear: its religious faith, its heroes,.....When one generation no longer esteems its own heritage and fails to pass the torch to its children, it is saying in essence that the very foundational principles and experiences that make the society what it is are no longer valid. This leaves that generation without any sense of definition or direction, making them the fulfillment of Karl Marx's dictum, 'A people without a heritage are easily persuaded.' What is required when this happens and the society has lost its way is for leaders to arise who have not forgotten the discarded legacy and who love it with all their hearts. They can then become the voice of that lost generation, wooing an errant generation back to the faith of the fathers, back to the ancient foundations and the bedrock values.....the voice and embodiment of heritage was Winston Churchill, who loved Christendom, empire, monarchy.....As a historian, Churchill studied societies that disconnected themselves from their historical moorings. He discovered that when a generation isolates itself from its past and begins to measure progress only in terms of its own accumulations, the history of that civilization begins drawing to a close. Churchill concluded that what holds society together from generation to generation are those shared values and traditions that comprise heritage. Civilizations can only thrive from age to age when the legacy each generation receives from its ancestors is passed on in strengthened form to their children..."*

*"Through the course of his long life, he had watched the gradual erosion of vital Christianity as a cultural force in England. He grieved at the loss of honour, respect and humility that resulted. 'Those who seek to plan the future,' Churchill warned,*



'should not forget the inheritance they have received from the past.. 'If the present tries to sit in judgment of the past, it will lose the future..' He told Billy Graham in 1954...**'I do not see much hope for the future unless it is the hope you are talking about, young man. We must return to God.'** Churchill hoped that this generation would recover what it had not accepted from the generation before it: **faith in God and the culture that faith produces.**" (Mansfield S, pp 190).

### Without Hope There Can Be No Faith

I love Hebrews chapter eleven, it is the great faith chapter. Hebrews 11:1 say that: **"Faith is the substance of things hoped for."** If we analyze this chapter of Scripture we will find that it then goes on to list what we consider our Biblical "heroes of faith". Almost the entire chapter is devoted to the deeds performed by our Christian ancestors. It is our **Heritage of Faith** as it records the deeds of Noah, Sarah, Abraham, Rahab, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, David, Daniel and others: **"By faith they shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength"** (verses 33-34). The chapter finishes with: **"For God had far better things in mind for us that would also benefit them, for they can't receive the prize at the end of the race until we finish the race"** (verse 40). Then Hebrews 12:1 says: **"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..."**

The message of Hebrews chapter eleven is that we can look back at the amazing things our spiritual forefathers accomplished by faith. It gives us hope that we too can overcome in life, we too can accomplish the things that they did. It lists our "heroes of faith" or hall of faith champions. Their deeds can inspire and spur us on to "run the race" and to fight the fight of faith. As we look back to our forefathers' deeds of faith they encourage us in the present and the future. Their faith acts as a "memorial". It inspires us that we too can overcome any obstacle in God. But what if I were to tell you that, "by faith" - de Quiros claimed this great land in the name of Jesus, naming it "South Land of the Holy Spirit". What if I were to tell you that, "by faith", men and women like Captain Charles Sturt, Edward John Eyre, Ludwig Leichhardt and many others conquered this hard, unknown land, sustained by their faith in

Jesus Christ. How many would believe me if I told you that "by faith", our forefathers such as Richard Johnson, a man of faith and courage carried God's Word to this brave new land? What of Governor Lachlan Macquarie who believed that this land had been set aside by the Lord to launch the Gospel into the Asian Pacific area? How many are aware that men and women of faith like Carolyn Chisholm, Flynn of the Inland and Prime Minister Alfred Deakin were sustained and enabled to fulfil their dreams of touching this nation by their steadfast faith in Jesus Christ?

### Come On Aussie, Come On!

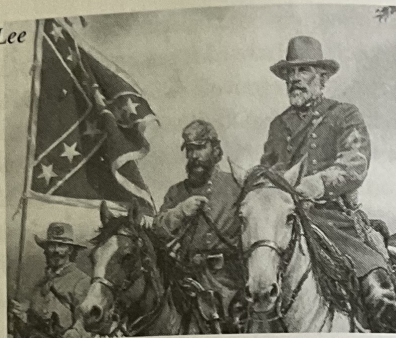
Would it impress you if I mentioned that "by faith" 800 Australian Light Horsemen achieved what no other nation had been able to achieve in 1400 years, i.e. liberate Jerusalem from Muslim control? And that is without mentioning others like John McDouall Stewart, Mary McConell, Samuel Marsden, Thomas Brisbane, John Forrest, Peter Warburton and countless others of our Christian forefathers! It is not just their deeds that gives us hope - it is our Australian Christian forefathers also! Whenever I read that scripture now I get a picture of some of my Australian forefathers among that great cloud of witnesses looking down on us. I can almost hear their voices shouting their encouragement, "Come on Aussie, come on!" Whenever I think of these men and women of faith and courage who founded this great nation it gives me hope. Likewise when we teach our children their rich Christian heritage it gives them hope and that hope can be turned into faith. For the generations to come to have faith, we must first of all give them hope. To have hope, the Bible says, we must first teach them about their Christian ancestry. **"By faith" this great land was set aside by God, "by faith" our early explorers and world shakers were able to fulfil the callings on their lives and touch the world.** Let me repeat, every nation draws its national character from its national heroes! Even the world knows it is important that people know their roots, their heritage. Dame Leonie Kramer, Chancellor of the University of Sydney writes in "The Tyranny of Relevance", that heritage is not a mere study of dead bones, but of our ancestry!

### General Robert E. Lee Honoured His Heritage

General Robert E. Lee, Commanding Officer of the US Army's West Point College, at the outbreak of the Civil War, was summoned by President Lincoln and offered command of the Union Army. After seeking the Lord in prayer Lee declined the offer, returning to take



General Robert E. Lee



command of the Confederate Army, even though he personally disagreed with slavery and the South seceding from the Union. He said: *"I look upon the secession as anarchy. If I owned the four million slaves in the South, I would sacrifice them all to the Union - but how can I draw my sword upon my own people, my Virginia, my native state."* (Lee Gen. Robert E). That sums up the word "heritage"!

### Do You Want Your Children "Brainwashed"?

An article in the Sydney Sun-Herald (August 15<sup>th</sup> 1999 - page 23) illustrates the point: *"Primary school children are being 'brainwashed' by a new syllabus into believing Australia was 'invaded' rather than 'settled' by the British, NSW National Party leader George Souris said. He said next year's.. school syllabus presented it as a fact...As part of the course for teaching the principles of Australian democracy, the syllabus demands schools 'examine Aboriginal democratic practices before British invasion..'* Mr. Souris said such language was inflammatory and it was a highly debatable point whether Australia was invaded so it should not be presented as fact... ***This is social engineering. It is brainwashing to indoctrinate children into a wider agenda of political correctness."***

*"Every civil government is based upon some religion or philosophy of life. Education in a nation will propagate the religion of that nation. In America the foundation religion was Christianity; and it was sown in the hearts of Americans through the home, private and public schools for centuries. Our liberty, growth and prosperity was the result of a Biblical philosophy of life. Our continued freedom and success is dependent upon our educating the youth of America in the principles of the Christian religion."* (Beliles M, McDowell S.)

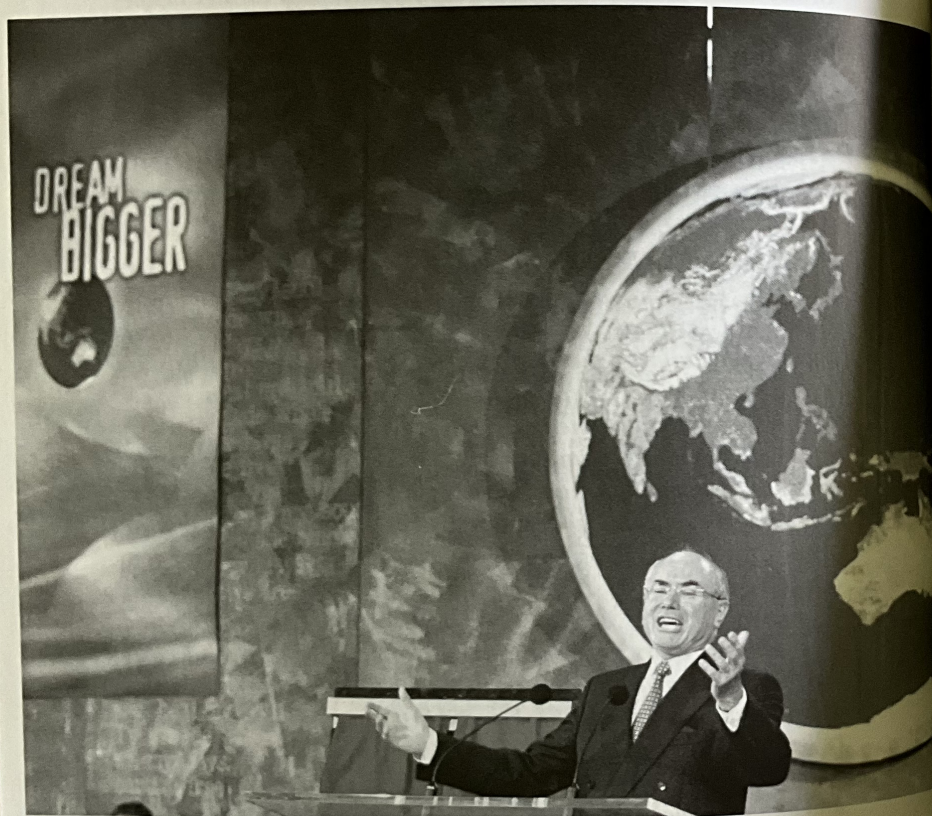
If we don't heed God's Word then we are to blame! Psalm 11:3 says: ***"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do....."*** The nation's Christian roots are being eroded, our schools often teach a humanistic, radical one sided point of view, or the latest "trendy" eastern religion. The Muslim faith has already begun to make inroads into our schools, one irony being that the Charles Sturt University in Wagga has a mosque on campus, but no Christian chapel! If our children attend a Christian school they are usually taught that we are all descended from British convicts, the scum of society. **A pastor and former history teacher confessed to me that she taught, and believed, that up until fifty years after the First Fleet arrived there were no Christians in Australia at all - only a few religious leaders!**

### An Educational Conspiracy?

The following article entitled "In My Opinion" was sent to me by a teacher: *"According to some experts a pattern is emerging reminiscent of Jewish persecution in post war Germany.. ...Even a casual observance of the facts reveals growing and similar isolation of American Christians .....especially school age believers. Efforts to convince children that America was not founded on Christian ideals, and that our forefathers actually wanted a secular society, permeates popular media and public education. History revisionists labour to eliminate any and all contradictory historical evidence from public school curriculum, and mockingly stereotype Christians as an unenlightened fringe... Dr. Paul Vitz, professor of psychology at New York University worked with a committee that examined sixty social studies and history textbooks used in public schools across the USA. The committee was amazed to find that almost every reference to the Christian influence of early America was systematically removed. Their conclusion: the writers of the commonly used textbooks exhibited paranoia of the Christian religion and intentionally censored Christianity's positive role in American history. Censors of religious expression target the media and public school curriculum because this is the best place, outside of the churches and families, to indoctrinate children and thus manipulate the future political and cultural landscape. If one succeeds in separating godly principles from public education and the media, they deny citizens the knowledge of good and keep them from embracing the laws of God."* (Horn T). (Emphasis is mine).



This shot appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald under the caption  
**“The Gospel according to John”**



*Prime Minister John Howard opening Christian City Church in Sydney  
 1999. Photo by Peter Rae courtesy Morning Herald.*

## Chapter 11 Australia's Potential As A Christian Nation

Proverbs 22:28 says: *“Do not remove the ancient landmark. Which  
 your fathers have set.”*

In other words we are to respect and honour the foundations that the nation's founding fathers, have laid down. Yet some Australians remain blissfully ignorant of their country's Christian heritage and foundations and are continually pushing to change them. Either they have forgotten their nation's history, or in many cases, they have never been taught it in the first place. There was a commercial shown on Australian TV where a boy runs into the room and asks his father, *“Dad, who was the first President of the United States?”* To this the father replies without hesitation, *“It was George Washington of course!”* The boy replies, *“Well who was the first Prime Minister of Australia?”* The father scratches his head for a moment and says, *“I don't know, go and ask your mother!”* That commercial hits the nail right on the head. We are a nation that is ignorant of its heritage! Our values and precious freedom are not things that we can take for granted. History is littered with such nations. Abraham Lincoln said: *“The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.”*

As I have said, many of our forefathers were men and women of Christian faith and character. So how dare anyone try to have such a heritage removed or changed? Even the Editor of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, December 30<sup>th</sup> 1999 agrees: *“Christian principles provide the basis of our system of law, ethics and personal values.”*



In the 1911 national census 95.9% of Australians said they embraced the Christian Faith. In the 1991 census 73.8% of the population confirmed that acceptance of Christianity, while in the 1996 census 70.9% acknowledged their Christian belief. Christianity was also registered by 71.5% of the Indigenous people. That doesn't mean everyone accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord, but it does mean they acknowledge this as a Christian nation. Dr. McLennan explains: "*Obviously we are not yet a nation of Christians. But we should .....steadfastly resist all who presume upon our Christian tolerance by trying to subvert or deny our Christian heritage. The tolerance, freedom, tranquility, justice and prosperity we enjoy exists only in that tiny handful of nations that enjoy Biblical Christianity, but will diminish if we neglect or depart from that Christian heritage.*" (McLennan Dr. G).

History is slanted by the writer. I wonder what our forefathers would think if they knew how our Constitution is being perverted and proposed for change? Had we been colonised by Muslims or Buddhists then our heritage would be just that, our flag would include their crescent. Our heritage is Christian and British, one may not like it but these are the facts. To try and remove such a heritage is not only wrong but it is an attempt to distort the truth!

### Jesus Christ in Australia's Governmental System

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, swore allegiance to Jesus Christ and the laws of God at her coronation. "*Christians can rejoice that the Coronation service (of the Queen) so clearly reveals the Lordship of Jesus in our national life. No other nation on earth install their head of state in a Christian service of praise and worship....During the service the Queen seeks the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Later, she holds the Scepter and the Orb, one in each hand. The Scepter is the symbol of her kingly authority, but the Orb - a golden sphere surmounted by the cross - is held at the same time to remind her 'that the whole world is subject to the Power and the Empire of Christ our Redeemer'. Thus, our kings and queens publicly declare to all, including those in positions of delegated authority, that use of the Crown's authority is only legitimate when under the Lordship of the King of kings....That those who framed our Constitution took it for granted that we are a Christian nation is evidenced by three major inclusions in the Constitution:*

- \* *Firstly their expressed humble reliance on Almighty God.*
- \* *Secondly their acceptance of their Christian Monarch as the governing authority of Australia, (they chose to have our Constitution "enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty" rather than by revolution and rebellion).*
- \* *Thirdly the requirement of section 42 that politicians of whatever variety give a clear guarantee of allegiance to our Christian Monarch - an oath for believers and affirmation for unbelievers." (Eason R.).*

In his book about the origins of the Australian System entitled "Is this the end of Religious Liberty, the author I. Hodge states that a High Court Barrister, David Mitchell, affirms that Australia is a Christian nation because its laws and government are based on the Bible. He points out that historically the English Monarch and the parliament are both subject to the laws embodied in the Bible.

### Jesus Teachings on Government and Politics

1. The Lord is Sovereign in human history and government. In John 19:11 Jesus answered Pilate with these words: "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above." In other words Jesus asserts that all civil authority is delegated and controlled by God. Romans 13:1 confirms this: "...there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."
2. The individual has inherent value because he is made in God's image. Matt. 27: 17-21 confirms this. This contradicts the humanistic idea that individuals are only regarded as valuable if they can contribute something worthwhile to the state or they belong to a certain social class or race.
3. Governments exist to serve the good of the individual (not the reverse). "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great: a ruler (NIV) among you shall be your servant" (Matt. 23: 11-12).



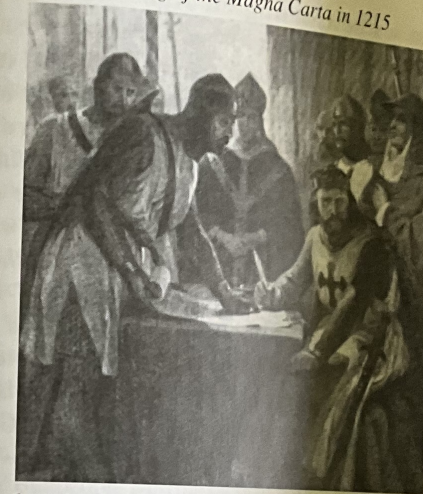
Jesus makes reference to civil authorities and is declaring that they are public servants. Therefore, the purpose of civil governments is to serve the people. This was a radical new idea and it contrasted greatly with the pagan idea of the rulers dominating the people, an idea which existed throughout the entire world at that time. This idea gradually infiltrated many nations, including Australia. Today we call our civil leaders "public servants". **The idea that civil government is the servant of man is a Christian idea.** The Apostle Paul rebuked the Corinthians for their apathy and irresponsibility regarding politics and the fact that they allowed non-Christians to be in control. He urged them to run for public office, such as the court system. (1 Cor.6:2-5). Gradually the Church lost its virtue and Biblical knowledge and embraced a pagan philosophy of government and education.

Christianity was first introduced into Britain in the first century, possibly by Joseph of Arimathea. The Anglo-Saxon laws introduced by Alfred the Great were the source of Common Law and the wisest and most perfect ever devised at that time. The seeds of our Australian self-government were sown in 1215, when the nation's leaders forced King John to sign the Magna Carta.



*Jesus teaching on civil government*

*The signing of the Magna Carta in 1215*



This charter, the most important in English law, was written at the time by a clergyman, the Archbishop of Canterbury. It enshrines and ensures that the biblical principles of all men being created equal is documented and thus the monarchy, as well as the people, are both subject to the law and the rights of the individual were protected by written law. This document embodied the principle that both rulers and the people were subject to the law. Both the English and Americans cite the Magna Carta as their source of freedom. It is the basis of all Christian Democracy to this very day!

*"The freedom to choose one's representative is not an American invention, but a Divine plan for godly government. John Jay....first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, said: "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers; and it is their duty as well as the privilege..... of a Christian nation to .....prefer Christians for their rulers." (Beliles M and McDowell S).*

**Australia Is One Of The World's Success Stories**  
British historian Paul Johnson, writes: *"The development of Australia rates as one of mankind's great achievements.....one of the most advanced and prosperous societies on earth has been created. It is an achievement with few parallels in the history of human adventure."* (Kemp Senator R).



## Federation - The Coming Of Age

Federation came to Australia in 1901 and that year the First Parliament was opened with prayer as the government established its authority under God. This was the actual prayer that was read on the historic day: *"Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to regard with Thy Merciful favour the points of this land, now united in one Commonwealth. We pray for Thy servants of the Governor-General.....and all who are or who shall be associated with them in the administration of their offices...We pray Thee at this time you vouchsafe Thy special blessings upon the Federal Parliament now assembling for the first session, and ....direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of Thy glory and to the true welfare of the people of Australia, through Jesus Christ our Lord, ..The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore - Amen".*

## Stand Up For Our Freedom Or Risk Losing It

On a recent trip to Britain I was appalled at a news item on television. A public school had been forced to remove all references to Jesus and Christianity from their Christmas decorations and tree as these were offensive to the Muslim children. My question is, what would be the situation if we tried that in a Muslim country such as Saudi Arabia? Not only could I not do such a thing but I could not even attend a church nor own a Bible! It is time to stand up for our nation's rights and Christian heritage. While we welcome these people, and guarantee their freedom of thought and religion, **they must realise that this is a Christian country that they have chosen to be a part of and not demand that we accept their culture and religion.**

## If The Constitution Is Altered It Could Cost Us Our Freedom As Christians

Let me point out a vital fact that could affect every Christian in this country. If our nation's Constitution is changed or tampered with it may forever reduce our freedom as Christians. At the moment we are free to witness and fulfil Jesus' great commission "to go into all the world and preach the Gospel". If this freedom was challenged then we could take it to the High Court of the land. This is our Constitutional right in a Christian democracy.

Section 116 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia clearly states: *"The Commonwealth shall not make any law establishing any religion or imposing any religious observance or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion....."*

However if our Constitution were to be changed, as the humanists would like, I may no longer be free to express my Christian beliefs on the basis that it may offend some other religion. The pro-Republican movement took us to a referendum about the right to change our constitution, using the smoke screen of removing our allegiance to the monarchy. Had they succeeded there was no guarantee as to how they would change it! Despite being defeated 55% to 45% the Republican issue will not go away. In fact the very day after their sound defeat the Republicans were making statements such as, "this was just the first round"! These people have hidden, (some not so hidden) agendas and our only defence is the education of our people with the facts of their Christian Heritage.

Psalm 11:3 says: *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* Our nation's foundations are its Constitution and laws based on Biblical principles. The Constitution is the "linchpin" of our Judeo-Christian Heritage enshrined by our founding forefathers. What is a "linchpin"? It is the part that first has to be removed before the machine or structure can be dismantled! The opponents of our Judeo-Christian heritage understand that step number one in dismantling our heritage and watering down our Christian society, is to alter our Constitution. Over sixty changes were proposed in the last referendum! Let me present a scenario. Let's say a Muslim objects to me witnessing on the street, or handing out tracts, on the proviso that it "offended his religious beliefs". On the premise that Australia's Constitution was no longer based upon the Bible and Australia was no longer considered a Christian country, then I could be ordered to cease my Christian activities or face arrest. I have visited places that restrict the freedom of Christians, such as Brunei and Malaysia, both of which are Muslim countries. One can be imprisoned for merely leading Muslims to Jesus.

But God is at work in this land! Let me quote the Bulletin Magazine, December 7th 1999: *"A recent court case had ruled against a Muslim attempt to convert an ex-Presbyterian church into a mosque in Bankstown in Sydney's south-west."*



## Australia Has A Divine Destiny

Joseph King wrote back in 1894, of Australia's divine destiny: "... *a Divine purpose runs through the life of every Christian nation, and to us there is no presumption in the belief that Australia,..... exists for the sake of the kingdom of God, that through us salvation may be given to those who are ignorant of it....God intends us to be, a missionary people. All in Australia who find Christ are to proclaim Him. He must be proclaimed in our own cities, towns,.....and lonely pastoral homes, ..And to the nations sitting in darkness beyond the horizon which Australia commands, to India, China, Japan and Isles of the Seas, we must send our messengers to plant everywhere,.....from the very dawn of civilisation Australia has been the scene of missionary activities...our geographical position in relation to the teeming Asiatic populations to whom Christ is not known, the conviction is forced upon us that the churches of Australia of every name have a special missionary call.....believing that His divine will has shaped our history as a people, a feeling of Australian patriotism becomes a factor in our missionary zeal.*" (King Rev. J.).

## Australias Debt To Christianity

Let me quote from "Australian Christian Life from 1788": ".....the Christian past of Australia has largely vanished... Not surprisingly, many have drawn the conclusion that the country has no Christian history of which it is worth speaking...In other words, the popular assumption is that Christianity has never played any larger role in the life of the nation than it does today. **And what is still more significant is that this attitude to Australian Christian history is prevalent in the Australian churches themselves. Few people would have any idea how to answer the question, 'What does Australia owe to Christianity?' That it was Christians who established schools and an honest press, Christians who led the way in fighting monopolies and in securing individual rights and representation, Christians who constituted unity out of which a nation could grow - all these and similar facts are virtually erased from the 'history of Australia' represented by modern secularism.**" (Murray P.).

Upon inspection one can witness that there is a direct relationship between the placing of the Bible into the hands of the population and the rise of civil liberty in that nation. God's idea of a successful nation is,

"The people make the laws and the church makes the people!" The church extends its influence over the government and the nation, not by its positional power but by the influence of its Christian teaching. **"A Christian nation is determined by its form of government, not who formed it. There are really only two types of national union - pagan and Christian. Pagan union is held together by external force and intimidation. Christian union, in contrast, is held together by internal unity of purpose and principles. Christian union always protects diversity and individuality."** (Beliles and McDowell).

The Bible and true civil liberty are inseparable. In fact, the ideas written into our Constitution stem more from the Bible than from any other source. Our founding fathers, while not all born again Christians, overwhelmingly believed in the Christian (Biblical) idea of man and government. The problems Australia finds itself facing, such as a move to change our Constitution and heritage, is not because of the New Age Movement, the Feminists, Communists, Occult or The World Council of Churches, but because we as Christians have abdicated our authority and responsibility, leaving a void in the public realm. We have surrendered our nation's Christian heritage by default! Margaret Thatcher, former British Prime Minister said: **"I find it difficult to imagine that anything other than Christianity is likely to resupply most people in the western world with the virtues necessary to re-moralise society..."**

I hear people using the lame excuse. "Well what can I do about it, I am just one person!" Then we need to look back to our Christian forefathers and find that one man can make the difference! Can't you hear their voices urging us, "Come on Aussie, come on, you can do it, you can make the difference?"

Remember Elijah? He was just one man but he turned a nation from worshipping idols back to serving the Lord. Luke 1:13-17 says: **"the angel said to him, '...your prayer is heard;..Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ..And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."**



The anointing on Elijah's life then came upon John the Baptist.  
To do what?

1. To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children - to change the home.
2. To turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just - to change the Church.
3. To make ready a people prepared for the Lord - to change a nation.

Today that same anointing is upon the Church, in fact an even stronger anointing. Matthew 11:11-12 says: "... *there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*" The least person who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour is greater than John the Baptist. We have the ability and the anointing to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and to change the home, as we teach the next generation about their Christian heritage. To turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just - to change the Church, and to make ready a people prepared for the Lord!

We have entered a new millennium. The eyes of the world will be upon this country for the Olympic Games. Australia is a lone Christian Democracy in an Asian sea of humanity dominated by Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist governments, (New Zealand is part of the Pacific realm). God has had His hand upon this land since time began. Australia is God's key, His base from which to launch the Gospel into Asia and the Pacific. Pedro de Quiros got it right the first time and that prophecy is about to be fulfilled! I consider it a great privilege to live here in Australia, but with that privilege also comes a great responsibility. We have what we have today because of the choices and the sacrifices made by our Godly forefathers - their character, their principles, their values, their morals and their Christian faith. But we could lose it all.

Australia is experiencing a wonderful awakening of Christianity. It is our hour! One only has to turn on the television or radio anywhere across this great land and we can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached. Despite what the atheistic media would have us believe, the Church is alive, thriving and growing. Many young people are flocking to the Church. We have come a long way since Pedro de Quiros spoke those faith-

filled words over our land "South Land of the Holy Spirit". As the Bible says, first the natural and then the spiritual. If Australia was the last of the great Christian democracies to be established in the world, then I believe that this land will be the last to see a great moving and outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Early this century, the great man of God, Smith Wigglesworth prophesied almost the identical thing as de Quiros had three centuries prior, that the Southland of the Holy Spirit - Australia/New Zealand (including the islands of the South Pacific), would herald the last great move of the Holy Spirit before Jesus returns. I have been challenged on the authenticity of this Wigglesworth prophecy. However, recently the Rev. Billye Brim assured me that Rev. David Duplessis ("Mr. Pentecost") had informed her that he had heard the prophecy from Smith Wigglesworth's own lips! Another woman in Adelaide was present at the meeting in that city when he made the prophecy. It is the genuine article!

God's hand is upon this nation. Australia was kept for such a time as this! This is our destiny as a nation! The plan for making Australia a base to touch the Asian/Pacific region with the Word of God was a common factor that motivated many of our founding fathers. But there is no room for complacency. Australians must know their history and their heritage, to know where they are going in the future! When our young people know their rich heritage they will no longer be searching for "an identity"! It takes Christian character to build and maintain a Christian Constitution and country. These principles are established in the home. God's Word and principles must be taught to our young. **A country which does not know and honour its roots, its heritage is like a ship without a rudder!**

A world famous psychiatrist stated that 98% of the world's population are only doing what others expect them to do. They are led, or copy others, in other words they are followers, not leaders. He went on to add that less than 2% of people actually have the backbone to follow their own heart. This 2% are the "movers and shakers". These are the world leaders. They march to the beat of a different drum. I might add that our Christian forefathers dared to go against the flow, dared to be different, dared to believe one man and God could make a difference. They dared to conquer and create this great nation of Australia.



Everyone knows the words of our National Anthem. It was written and composed by Peter Dodds McCormick and was first performed in 1878. In my original book I incorrectly stated that the almost unknown third verse was also written by Mc Cormick, a fact attested to by many other sources. However such is not the case. The third verse was written for the bi-centenary celebrations in 1988 by Ruth Ponniah of Sydney.

*"With Christ our Head and Corner Stone  
We'll build our nation's might,  
Whose Way and Truth and Light alone,  
Can guide our path aright;  
Our lives, a sacrifice of love  
Reflect our Master's care,  
With faces turned to Heav'n above  
Advance Australia Fair,  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair."*

And what of the current song, "The Great Southland":

*"This is our nation, this is our land  
This is our future, this is our hope  
A land of reaping, a land of harvest  
This is our land, this our home.*

*This is the great Southland of the Holy Spirit  
A land of red dust plains and summer rains  
To this sunburnt land we will see a flood  
And to this great Southland His Spirit comes.*

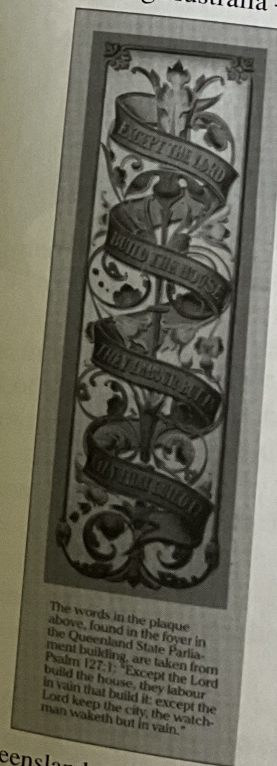
*This is our nation, this is our land  
This land of plenty, this land of hope  
The richest harvest is in her peoples  
We see revival, His Spirit comes.*

*This is our nation, this is our land  
This lucky country of dreams gone dry  
And to these people we see a harvest  
And to this land His Spirit comes."*

(Song by Geoff Bullock, coyright 1993 Word Inc, administered by Nightlight Music Group Pty Ltd, The Entrance NSW. Used by permission.)

Let me leave you with this word from one of our heroes of faith, the Reverend William Hamilton who sailed to Australia in 1837 with "the prospect", in his own words, "*of being engaged in laying the foundation of the Church of Christ in what is destined to be one of the greatest countries of the earth.*" (Murray P).

Enough of these humanists, atheists and others who tell us that there is not and never has been, a place for Jesus Christ in this nation! God's hand has always been upon this great land! Are you going to respond to the title of "sons of ex-convicts" or sons of God? **We are conquerors,** and God will continue blessing Australia, God is blessing Australia Spirit!



The words in the plaque above, found in the foyer in the Queensland State Parliament building, are taken from Psalm 127:1: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Words of a plaque in the Queensland State Parliament building: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1)





## Chapter 12

# The Australian National Flag

"I am the National flag of Australia.

I belong to you and every Australian.... equally.... and freely.

I was conceived before the dawn of the century. Designed by Ivor Evans, I was chosen over and above some 32,000 contenders.

Although I was never an orphan, I was adopted on that sparkling spring day, the 3rd of September, 1901. I was raised proudly above the Exhibition Building in Melbourne.

I was hailed and celebrated by people standing on the threshold of nationhood. You took me to your hearts.

In that official ceremony, in the presence of our first Prime Minister, I became the chief symbol of a new Nation, embracing the ideals of self determination, national sovereignty and personal freedom, **under God**.

I have been hoisted aloft over many buildings - from humble homes to the Houses of Parliament.

I have listened to every Prime Minister declare his allegiance to me, to our Monarch and to our Constitution.

I have witnessed the pledge of each one to protect and defend those freedoms we all cherish, even above life itself. I am carried with pride in ceremonies and processions.



I have draped the caskets of your National heroes, carried to their last resting place - the caskets of Kings and Queens, eminent statesmen, Generals, Admirals, humble Privates and the Unknown soldier. Wherever free men gather, wherever there is justice, faith, hope, charity and truth there too am I.

At the tender age of 14 years, I received my Baptism of Fire in World War 1. I flew proudly in those early days as we heard the call to do battle alongside those of our own kin. I was carried up the steep hills of Gallipoli and I was there with the men in the trenches - I watched Simpson bring out the wounded on his donkey.... I breathed the dust of the deserts and rode in glory with the gallant Lighthorsemen as they liberated Jerusalem from centuries of Muslim rule. I saw our finest sons fall, in death they had given their last full measure of devotion. The war was over for them forever, but I kept my lonely vigil over their graves and stayed to watch the flowers grow, amid the crosses, row upon row, in Flanders Fields. Oh, young Australia, I was there with your fathers.

You know my distinctive emblems - **the Union Jack is the tie that binds us to your ancestors and rich heritage down through the centuries. The upright red cross on a white field is the Cross of St George, patron saint of England. This cross was there when King John set his Royal Seal on Magna Carta in 1215. And it was there when Simon de Montford brought together the very first Parliament in 1265, making England truly, the "Mother of Parliaments". I proudly wear two other crosses - the white diagonal cross on a blue field is the Cross of St. Andrew, of Scotland. The red diagonal cross on a white field is the cross of St. Patrick, of Ireland.**

These, three crosses, which perhaps you scarcely understand, unite our heritage in this wonderful land and forge our future in an unseparable bond. The blazing Southern Cross marks our way ahead, while the seven pointed Federation Star\* joins our states and territories in a single, yet united Commonwealth, all this set in a field of the blue of our southern skies and of endless ocean washing our golden sandy beaches and coral shores. We are the heirs to a culture, rich and diverse. (\* Seven is God's number of completion.)

I have been to many places. I have seen many things. With our explorers I crossed the icy wastes of Antarctica, and climbed the heights of Mount Everest. I look down with pride on our sportsmen and women as they win for their country, all over the world. At every official or memorable event in this land. I hold the position of honour.

Then came 1939, and once again we heard the beat of the war drums. Again, my heart went out to our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen. I was there with them, in the Middle East, in New Guinea, Malaysia, Borneo and many other places.

Finally, in '45, peace at last, so we thought. With just a few short years rest, I was again carried into battle, caught up in further hostilities by those promoting war. I watched and praised the endurance and spirit of our volunteers in Korea. I too, felt the sufferings of our brave sons and daughters in the forces in Vietnam (\*and Timor too)....Lest you forget!

I am well known and remembered in many places. I am flown every day in the school at Villers Bretonneux in France where grateful children and teachers do not forget their debt to Australian soldiers.

I am many things to many people. To some, I am yesterday, today and tomorrow - **an inseparable link in the chain that binds men to God and Country. And because I am on the side of God through our great heritage, there are the godless who seek to destroy me and replace those three Christian crosses with plants or animals. But, they dare not. Why? Because today I am everywhere - in the homes of the humble and the mansions of millionaires. I am in the cities, the suburbs, and in country towns. From coast to coast, right across this great nation, I am raised with pride and dignity.**

Look at me and remember your heritage and realise our great future. Together we will grow, and all the world will know. And as you consider the future of your own true identity, remember, I was there in your every hour of loss,.... your every moment of glory, so, too, I will be there in all your tomorrows. The proud, loyal and glorious.... **but there is one thing for which I need you - why change me now? After all we have been through together, I am your flag, I am your heritage!"**  
(Author unknown)



## The Flag

Henry Parkes. "The Father of Federation", wrote this poem in the 1890's, 'The Flag' to express his hopes and prayers for Australia's peace and prosperity.

*Fling out the flag - our virgin flag,  
Which foeman's shot has never rent,  
And plant it high on mount and crag,  
O'er busy towns and lonely tent.*

*Where commerce rears her stately halls,  
And where the miner rends the rock.  
Where the sweet rain on cornfields falls,  
Where pastures feed the herd and flock.*

*Still let it float o'er homes of peace,  
Our story cross - our glorious sign!  
While Nature's bounteous gifts increase,  
And Freedom's glories brighter shine.*

*Brave hearts may beat in Labour's strife,  
They need no spur of martial pride;  
High deeds may crown a gentle life,  
And spread their radiance far and wide.*

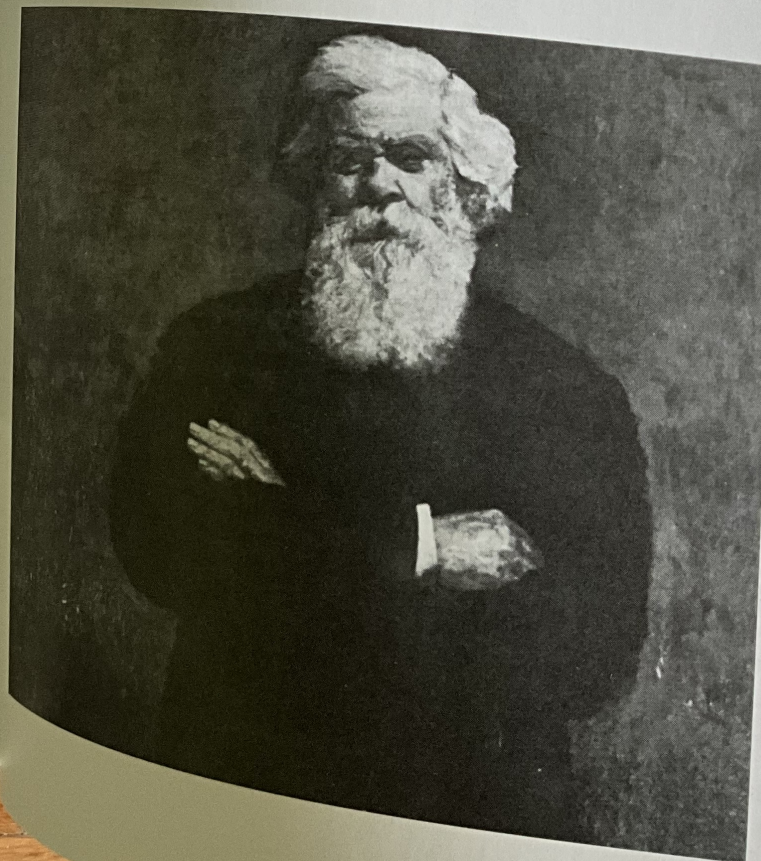
*Fling out the flag, and guard it well!  
Our pleasant fields the foe ne'er trod;  
**Long may our guardian heroes dwell**  
**In league with truth - in camp with God!***

*In other lands the patriot boasts  
His standard borne through Slaughter's flood,  
Which, waving o'er infuriate hosts,  
Was consecrate in fire and blood.*

*A truer charm our flag endears;  
Where'er it waves, on land or sea,  
It bears no stain of blood and tears -  
In glory is its purity.*

*God girdled our majestic isle  
With seas far - reaching east and west,  
That man might live beneath His smile,  
In peace and freedom ever blest."*

Henry Parkes





# Chapter 13

## Sydney's

### Mr. "Eternity"



*'Eternity' emblazoned in fireworks on Sydney Harbour Bridge  
New Year's Eve 1st January 2000*

#### The New Millennium

"The New Millennium began with a bang in Sydney, Australia. On the tick of midnight 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 the promised fireworks display erupted over Sydney Harbour to the delight of more than a million people.. This was a display to end all displays. It was designed to outdo every other New Year's celebration on planet earth, and it seems to have achieved its goal. For twenty four hours the world's media ran continuous commentary of celebrations on every part of the globe...But nothing compared with the brilliance of Sydney Harbour on January 1st 2000.

What was the reason for Sydney's success in surpassing every other display around the globe? Was it the amount of money spent on the fireworks? Or the fact that Australia has such incredible skills in developing fireworks extravaganzas? Perhaps in Sydney's Olympic Games it was intended to put the city in the land "down under" at the top of the globe...While many may heap their plaudits on the organizers for the world-wide notoriety, there is another reason for Sydney's New Millennium success. A reason that can be summed up in one word that hung suspended from the giant arch of the Sydney Harbour bridge, amidst the jetting rockets exploding above and the deluge of light that poured from the roadway beneath it. That single word was 'Eternity'.

#### The One Word Sermon

Like a message suspended between heaven and earth and flashed across the world stage to billions of souls, it shone like a beacon, warning that



time was swiftly passing and we were creatures of eternity. This was a sermon in a word.....In down-town Sydney, set in the pavement at Sydney Square, is the same inescapable word, 'Eternity', in faultless copperplate writing. It was put there to perpetuate the memory of Sydney's unique citizen, Arthur Stace, otherwise known as Mr. Eternity.....

Arthur was a thin little man no more than five feet three inches in stature. He was uneducated, and on his own testimony could barely write his name....yet for thirty three years this incredible man rose at five o'clock each morning to walk the streets of Sydney and the far-flung suburbs to write with chalk in flawless copperplate style on the pavements, just one word, "Eternity". Day after day, with a commitment and passion rarely equalled, he preached his sermon to the busy crowds.....It is estimated that this simple yet profound message was repeated over 500,000 times! In many ways the word was mysterious, for none knew who was responsible for this elegant graffiti that adorned the pavement.

### **"Guilty, Your Honour!"**

There was no doubt the same person was responsible wherever it appeared, but who did it? Journalists referred to its author as 'Mr. Eternity'....Occasionally his sermon changed to 'Obey God', but quickly reverted to the one-word sermon, 'Eternity'. One day in 1956, after twenty four years of mystery, Rev. Lisle Thompson, who was Arthur's pastor at Burton Street Baptist Tabernacle, saw him writing the mysterious word on the pavement. 'Are you Mr. Eternity?' he asked. Back came the answer, 'Guilty, your honour!' Once Mr. Eternity's identity was known interviews were arranged....the Daily Telegraph published a report on 21/6./56. The secret was out, and the mystery solved. A TV documentary was even produced on his life and shown across the nation.

### **Not A Good Start To Life**

Arthur Stace was born in Balmain...in the year 1884. His father was an alcoholic and his mother ran a brothel. He had two brothers, both of whom died from alcoholism. His two sisters ran a brothel. ...Needless to say, the family grew up in abject poverty, and Arthur's childhood was a daily battle for survival. He stole to eat, and at the age of twelve was made a State Ward. He received no education. When fourteen years old Arthur went to work in a coal mine.... And at fifteen served his first gaol

sentence. Even at this young age he was a heavy drinker....he occupied himself with running 'sly grog' for pubs and acting as 'cockatoo', or lookout for gambling houses and brothels. His whole lifestyle brought him into conflict with the police and on many occasions he was arrested and sentenced.

When the Great War of 1914-18 began, Arthur ...enlisted in the AIF. He was sent to the battlefields of France, where he served as stretcher-bearer and drummer. He witnessed the horrors of warfare in the trenches under heavy artillery bombardment in freezing conditions, and received injuries that impaired the sight of one of his eyes. In 1919 he returned to Australia and was discharged still suffering from shell shock and the effects of mustard gas poisoning. Back home in Sydney, Arthur found it easy to renew old acquaintances and soon slipped into a life of alcohol, gambling and crime. On his own testimony, Arthur had become 'a petty criminal, a bum and a metho drinker.'

### **'I'd Reckon' They'd Be Christians'**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1930 Arthur Stace wandered into a 'Meeting for Needy Men'.....and found 300 seated in the hall. Looking around, he noticed a few well dressed men standing near the door and he turned to the man sitting next to him, who was one of Sydney's best known criminals, and asked, 'Who are they?' The reply came back, 'I'd reckon they'd be Christian'. Arthur said, 'Well look at them and look at us. I'm having a go at what they've got.' After the gospel had been presented....Arthur made his way out of the hall... There, under a big Moreton Bay fig tree, he fell on his knees to the ground and with tears of repentance streaming down his face cried out, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' That cry was the pivot on which Arthur's life turned. His was a genuine conversion to Christ, and for the next thirty seven years his life was a living testimony to God's saving and keeping power..... Later Arthur testified: 'I went in to get a cup of tea and a rock-cake, but I met the Rock of Ages.'

When Arthur Stace turned to God and found mercy he realized that every other person needed to do the same. That is why, for thirty three years, he walked the streets from the early hours of the morning preaching his one-word sermon, 'Eternity'. 'Eternity', to him was the everlasting destiny of every soul to be spent in heaven or hell, and this conviction drove him on day after day. The effects of that day and his decision to



follow Christ were lifelong. Arthur found that he was able to give up drinking and find steady employment. He said *'As I got back my self respect people were more decent to me.'*

### The 'Call'.

In 1932 Evangelist John G. Ridley MC conducted an evangelistic mission at the Burton Street Baptist Tabernacle where Arthur was attending.... he preached on the text Isaiah 57:15. *'Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity.'* Stressing the word eternity, the preacher cried, *'Eternity! Eternity! I wish I could sound or shout that word to everyone in the streets of Sydney. Eternity! You have to meet it. Where will you spend eternity?'*

Arthur Stace recalled that meeting. He said, *'Eternity was ringing through my brain, and suddenly I began to cry and felt a powerful call from the Lord to write 'Eternity'. I had a piece of chalk in my pocket, and outside the Church I bent down right there and wrote it..... I had no schooling and I couldn't have spelled 'eternity' for a hundred quid. But it came out smoothly, in a beautiful copperplate script. I couldn't understand it, and I still can't.'*

Over the next thirty three years that one word, 'Eternity', was repeated more than 500,000 times, all over the city of Sydney, in country towns and in Melbourne....He recalled being apprehended by the police. *'Twenty three times'* he said, *'I have been questioned by the police but I've never been arrested...the police have been very good to me. I know there's a rule about defacing the footpaths, but I've got authority from a higher Source.'*

Once ...a policeman apprehended him with, *'What are you doing writing on the pavement?'* *'Well,'* replied Arthur, *'it is a word from the Bible, which I want people to read; and don't forget that when you were sworn-in to the Police Force you placed your hand on that Book.'* With that the officer turned away and Arthur continued his silent, sacred ministry. Some tried to erase the word from the pavement, and one man followed him placing the letter 'm' before 'eternity' making it 'meternity'. It was then that Arthur increased the size of the first letter and, as he said, *'I tricked the bloke and made it a great big 'E'.'*

Arthur was a tireless worker for God. He was forty six years old when he was saved and married at fifty seven..... Although Arthur could not read the Bible he had memorized much of its contents and quoted it faultlessly..... He was blessed with an incredible memory.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1967, in a nursing home, Mr. Eternity suffered a stroke and passed over into the immediate presence of his Lord and Saviour.

Following Arthur's death, many suggestions were made to honour the man's memory, including a statue of Arthur kneeling on the ground writing, or 'Eternity' plaques to be placed on pavements throughout the city. When Architect Ridley Smith unveiled Sydney Square, the Sydney Morning Herald wrote, 'In letters almost twenty one cm high is the famous copperplate message 'Eternity'. The one word sermon gleams in aluminium. There's no undue prominence. No garish presentation. Merely the simple 'Eternity' on pebbles as Arthur Stace would have wanted it.

When the NSW Library hosted an exhibition on the lives of Sydney's most notable eccentrics, Arthur's name was prominent in the exhibition.

It is said that the word 'Eternity' can still be discerned on the bell in the old Sydney GPO Tower. How he put it there no one will ever know, but on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2000 that one-word sermon tolled far beyond the revellers on Sydney Harbour, to possibly two billion viewers around the entire globe. Not once, but again and again that message rang out.

Was the celebration worth all the millions of dollars expended? I venture to say that this was the most cost effective sermon ever preached; and it was the message of a little man who had no theological qualifications, had never been ordained to the ministry, and who, up to the age of forty six, confessed himself, *'a petty criminal, a bum, and a metho drinker.'*

Arthur Stace has sown the seed, God will give the increase, and Eternity will reveal the harvest..... Sydney's New Millennium celebration had to be the best in the world. God had a Millennial Message for all mankind.

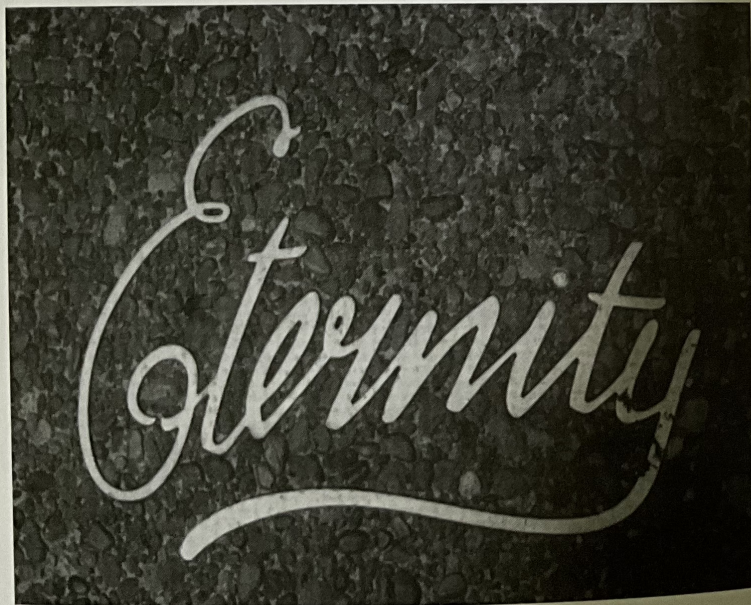


*Life at best is very brief,  
Like the falling of a leaf,  
Like the binding of a sheaf,  
BE IN TIME!*

*Sinner, heed the warning voice,  
Make the Lord your final choice,  
Then all heaven will rejoice,  
BE IN TIME!*

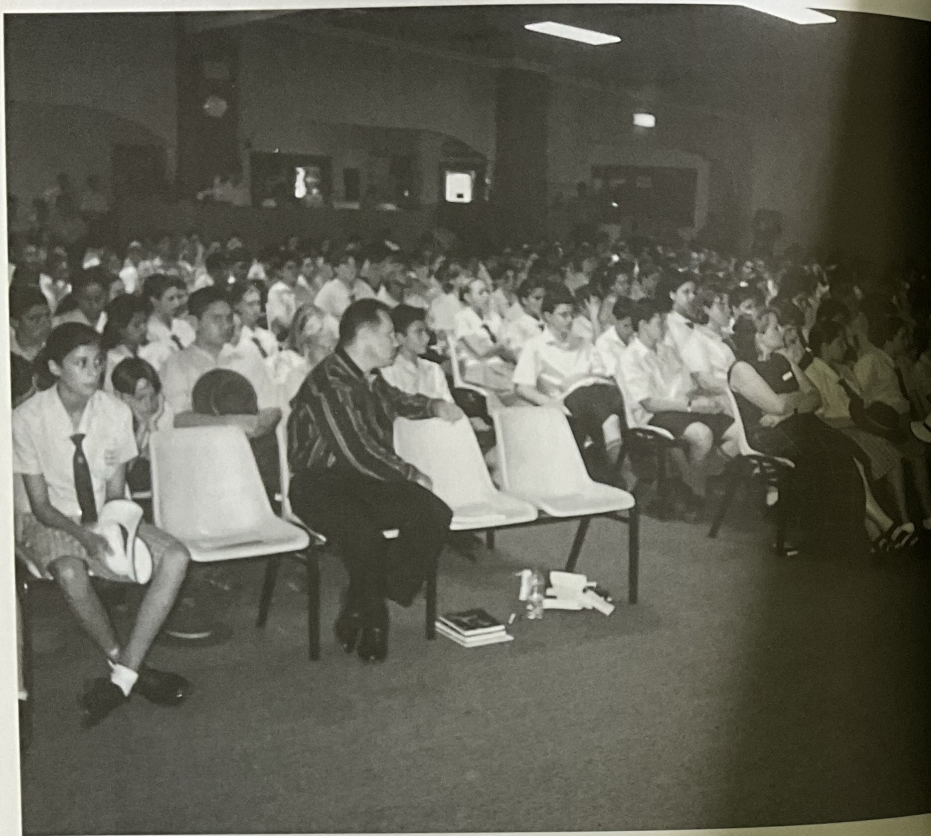
*Come from darkness into light,  
Come let Jesus make you right,  
Come, and start for Heaven tonight.  
BE IN TIME!"*

(From an article in "The Herald of Hope" by Bruce Leghorn and the late John Ridley MC).



*'Eternity' set in the cobblestones of Sydney Square*





Author conducting Heritage Rally

## Chapter 14 A "Wake - Up" Call For Australia

What is the future for the young people of Australia? Already we have the highest suicide rate among the young, in the world. In fact I understand the suicide rate among young males has exceeded our national road toll! Many Australians have no sense of direction in their lives. I believe we, the Church, have a responsibility to ensure that we teach the next generation their Godly heritage, the consequences of failure are just too horrendous to contemplate! The following article is something that moved me greatly when I first read it. It is written by the father of one of the girls murdered in the Columbine High School Massacre - Colorado USA. It is an article written from the heart that touches the heart of this nation's problem as well!

*"Here's something our so-called 'journalists' and the White House tried to sweep under the rug: 'On Thursday, May 27, 1999, Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's sub-committee. What he said to our national leaders during this special session of Congress was painfully truthful. It needs to be heard by every parent, every teacher, every politician, every sociologist, every psychologist, and every so-called expert! These courageous words spoken by Darrell Scott are powerful, penetrating, and deeply personal. There is no doubt that God sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness. The following is a portion of the transcript: 'Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the heart of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence.*

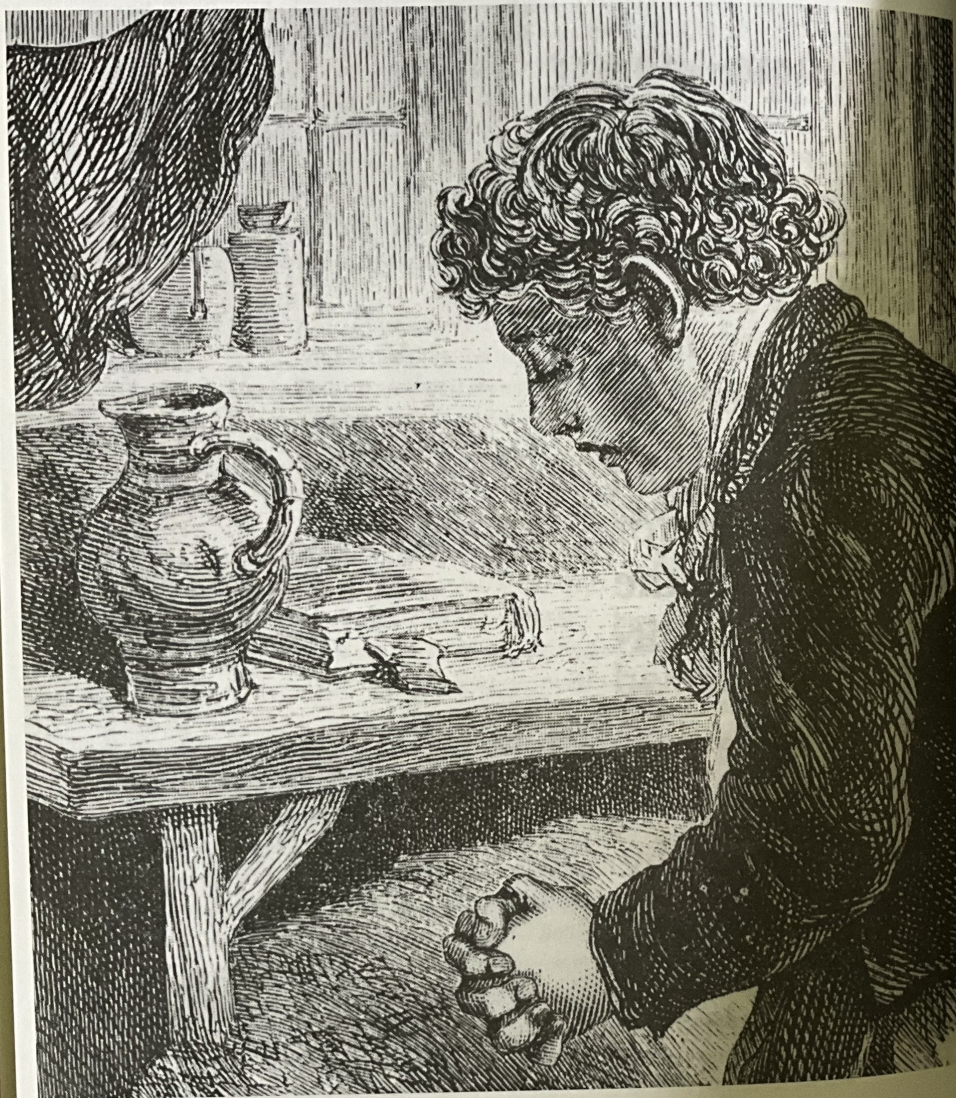


The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers... .. In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the National Rifle Association (NRA)..... I am not a hunter. I do not own a gun... I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy – it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves. I wrote a poem that expresses my feelings best...

Your laws ignore our deepest needs  
Your words are empty air  
**You've stripped away our heritage**  
You've outlawed simple prayer  
Now gunshots fill our classrooms  
And precious children die  
You seek for answers everywhere  
And ask the question "Why"  
You regulate restrictive laws  
Through legislative creed  
And yet you fail to understand  
That God is what we need.

Spiritual influences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honour God, and in doing so, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs - politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties....Political posturing and restrictive legislation are not the answers.....There is a spiritual awakening taking place that will not be squelched! .....**We do need a change of heart and a humble acknowledgment that this nation was founded on the principle of simple trust in God!** My daughter's death will not be in vain. The people of this country will not allow that to happen!"





## Chapter 15 The Potential Is In The Seed

*"Thus says the Lord.... I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring." (Isaiah 44:2-3).*

Australia's great potential for revival lies in the seeds of the Gospel that have been sown into the heritage of this nation ever since it was first discovered. The Bible talks about "seedtime and harvest". Oh if we only understood the power of seed! There is a time for planting *seed*, there is a process of *time* and there is a time of *harvest*. It is time that separates the "seed" from the "harvest". 1 Corinthians 3:6 says Paul sowed, Apollos watered but it was God who gave the increase!

The wonderful thing about seed is that it will always grow when it is watered! I read where they recently found some seed in an Egyptian pyramid that was thousands of years old, but once it was planted and watered it grew! It doesn't matter how old the seed is, it will grow when watered! Australia has had generational seeds of Christian faith sown since day one of its discovery! All that seed needs is water - the former and the latter rain! I am from the Northern Territory, I have driven through the outback! It is some of the driest country on earth, but once rain falls on the desert that seed comes alive. It blooms with some of the most beautiful wildflowers in the world!

Where did those flowers come from? The seed was in the ground. It may have been there for years but all it needed was some water!



Isaiah 32:13-15 says: "*On the land of my people will come up thorns and briers, .... Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.*"

Notice here that it says that the land was dry. It contained thorns and briers while it waited. What does it wait for? "*Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high*"! Notice what happens when the rain of the Holy Spirit begins to fall. The wilderness becomes a fruitful field and blossoms like a forest! When the rain falls supernatural growth takes place!

This is a Christian nation and generations of "faith seeds" and God's Word have been sown into this nation. All they need is some water of the Holy Ghost. There have been Christian seeds sown into every family in this nation - they may have skipped some generations, but seed never dies. It lies in the ground waiting for rain. This nation was founded by Godly men and women. This nation was dedicated to the Lord - this is "*La Australia del Espiritu Santo*" - South land of the Holy Spirit. Think about how much Gospel seed has been sown into this nation. Not only from our heritage but today we have more Gospel on TV, radio, books and magazines than at any time in our history. Is this purely coincidence? In every pub, bar and casino across this nation are seeds lying dormant in so many lives, all that seed needs is some water - anointing of the Holy Spirit, to cause it to germinate! God has always worked with more than one generation and he watches over that seed!

Isaiah 43:19 says: "*Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*" Why do you need rivers in the desert? Because there is seed out there waiting to germinate!

Verse 20 says: "*....Because I give waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen.*"

Notice the words "*drink to My people, My chosen*"! God has some people, maybe hard people, "brier bushes", but they are still His people. Why? Because they have been blessed with some seed of Christian faith sown into their heritage. All that seed needs is water!

**This is the very Scripture that Edward John Eyre quoted in the Australian desert 150 years ago!** Now we are the generation that is beginning to see it come to pass in this nation! Isaiah 44:2-3 says: "*Thus says the Lord who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring.'*"

The word for descendants here is literally "seed". God is not only promising to pour out His Spirit on our seed, our "offspring" but also His blessings! How will He do that? Rain! The former and the latter rain! He will pour water on the seed that has been sown into this country for generations! And what will that rain do? Verse 4: "*They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.*"

We will probably wonder where these people came from and how they got saved? Nobody witnessed to them? We haven't seen them in Church, so how did they get saved? I believe it will test some of our religious ideas and theology! We have seen this before, during the "Jesus people" movement. Do you remember how God poured out His Spirit on those people and thousands were saved? What about the Day of Pentecost? One hundred and twenty "seeds" were watered and blossomed but that same day 3,000 more were sown, watered and harvested!

I grew up in a family where I received little or no Christian input whatsoever. However one day when I was about eleven years of age I was walking passed a church in my hometown. Suddenly I felt a strong urge drawing me inside. It was mid-week and the church was empty but I went down to the altar where I knelt and prayed. What made me do that? I doubt if I had ever been in church more than once or twice in my entire life at that stage. No one had witnessed to me or invited me to come to Jesus. What did that? Years later I found out that my Grand-mother had been a born again believer and prayed for us as children. She had sown seed into my life and God had watched over that seed, then He began to water that seed! That seed never dies, no matter how old it is. It may skip a generation or two or more, but then the rain comes and the seed springs to life.



## Paul's Forefathers Had Served God

Remember Saul on the road to Damascus? God spoke to him and knocked him down. Yet no one had witnessed to him. What gave the Lord the right to intervene in Paul's (Saul) life? Is God a respecter of persons? No, I believe that somewhere in Saul's background there were seeds sown, some Godly seed and God simply poured out His Spirit and watered that seed.

2 Timothy 1:5 says *"I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day."*

Notice what Paul says, **that his forefathers had served God**. Godly seed had been sown into his life. That seed gave the opportunity or invitation for the Lord to intervene in Paul's life on the road to Damascus. To further illustrate my point he goes on in verse 4 to add: *"when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."*

Generational seeds of Christian heritage had been handed down from Timothy's grandmother Lois to his mother Eunice and finally to Timothy himself. Paul recognised this when he said: *"...and I am persuaded is in you also."* In fact if we were to examine the way many Christians had come to accept the Lord today we would find that somewhere in their past someone had sown seeds of God's Word into their lives. Many of us think we are first generation Christians but I seriously doubt it. Seed can be sown in one generation and reaped in another.

Doesn't that give you hope for your family? It doesn't matter how bad it looks, how dry and hard. Your family may be a "brier patch" but when the rain comes they will be a fruitful forest! What does Isaiah 44:4 say? *"They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the water-courses."*

Seeds in dry, hard places will simply "spring up"! And what will they say? Verse 5 says: *"One will say, 'I am the Lord's'; Another will call himself by the name of Jacob; Another will write with his hand, 'The Lord's,' And name himself by the name of Israel."*

One will cry out that he belongs to the Lord, another will call himself by the name of Jesus! Suddenly all over this nation generations of seed will just spring up. It will blossom and come to life! Why? Because someone sowed seed and the Holy Spirit watered it! Paul sowed, Apollos watered but it was God who gave the increase! (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Romans 4:18 shows us quite plainly what God is going to do and that is to pour out His Spirit on our seed, our descendants: *"so shall your seed be"*. In other words something was going to be handed down through Abraham's seed from generation to generation. That "something" was a Godly heritage! Like Abraham's descendants the seeds of Godly heritage and faith have been handed down to us from generation to generation. Our forefather's courage, tenacity and Christian faith and their "potential" has been passed down to us as part of our Godly heritage!

**The word "potential" means: "dormant ability, reserved power, untapped strength, capped capability". It is what lies within the Aussie heart just waiting to be tapped and released.** These great people sowed their lives as well as the Word of God into this nation.

"Yes", you say, "that may be true, but those people are long since dead!" True, but what about their children and their great, great, grandchildren? The seed our Godly forefathers sowed is still there. 1Peter 1:23 says that we have been born of incorruptible seed: *"having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever"*. That seed never dies and it is the seed that has been sown into your family and nation! God is about to pour out His Spirit upon that seed and we are about to see a harvest! I believe that, I confess that over my children and grandchildren - "so shall my seed be!"

Others say, "Well when is this ever going to happen?" Just be patient and keep sowing seed. It takes seed and water - but God gives the harvest. James 5:7 says: *"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and the latter rain."* Notice that; *"the early and the latter rain!"* The early rain germinates the seed but it is the latter rain that produces fruit - the harvest!



But people still want to know when. Hosea 6:1-2 answers that question: *"Come, and let us return to the Lord; ..After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight."* After two days he will revive us! A day is as a thousand years with the Lord, so that would mean two thousand years. That's right now! On the third day He will raise us up! We have just moved into that "third day"! We are on the verge of the greatest revival the world has ever seen. God is about to water those generational seeds that have been sown into this nation (and the world) by our forefathers! Do you want me to give you Scripture to prove this? Look at verse 3: *"Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth."*

### **My Desire Is That My Life Will Make A Difference**

It is my sincere desire that my life might make a difference. I am believing for a great time of harvest, not for hard times, not for the Church to die, not a great Apostasy, but the greatest time of harvest this nation has ever experienced! We will see the former rain (to germinate the seed) and the latter rain (to bring the fruit) falling together in the greatest revival the world has ever seen! That's why Jan and I are placing this book into every school we can across this nation. That's the reason why we intend holding "Heritage Rallies" in such places as RSL clubs, schools, at Mayoral breakfasts, political rallies and churches. That's why we are writing articles in magazines and newspapers - and speaking on radio and TV.

God is pouring out His Spirit, the former and latter rain, on the generational seed that has been sown into this nation. Do your children (your seed) know their Godly heritage? Why? So they may place their hope in God! Let me leave you with a Word from the Lord that will give you hope for about Australia. Job 14:7-9 says: *"For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease. Though its root may grow old in the earth, And the stump may die in the ground. Yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant."* There is a destiny for you, a destiny for your children and this nation!





Smith Wigglesworth

## Chapter 16

# Prophecies And Prayers Over Australia

Over the years I have heard many prophecies and prayers regarding this nation. Some have been negative but most have been positive. The following are some of the prophecies (and prayers) that I have heard, or that have been given by *recognised prophetic ministries*. This is not all of them, but it does give us an idea of what God has planned for this nation.

### Captain Fernandez Pedro de Quiros (1606)

Pedro de Quiros spoke these faith filled words over our land - South Land of the Holy Spirit: :*"Let the heavens, the earth, the waters with all their creatures and all those here present witness that I, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros...in the name of Jesus Christ ..hoist this emblem of the Holy Cross on which His (Jesus Christ's) person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the ransom and remedy of all the human race...on this Day of Pentecost, 14th May 1606....I, take possession of all this part of the South as far as the pole in the name of Jesus....Which from now on shall be called the Southern land of the Holy Ghost....and this always and forever ....and to the end that to all natives, in all the said lands, the holy and sacred evangel may be preached zealously and openly."* (de Looper M).

The Bible says - first the natural and then the spiritual! If Australia and New Zealand were the last of the great Christian democracies to be established in the world, then I believe that we will be the last to see a great moving and outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



**Rev. Richard Johnson - Australia's First Preacher**  
*"From the very beginning, God's sovereign purpose has been clear. There is a destiny for this nation."* (Macintosh N.K, page 53).

**Rev. Samuel Marsden**

*"Marsden, reminded them in a sermon that while in the sight of the unwise the decision to found a settlement at Botany Bay was motivated by the need to find a receptacle for the criminal population of Britain, He who governed the universe had another object in view: .....because the time had drawn near for the poor heathen nations of the South Seas to be favoured with the knowledge of divine revelation."* (Clark Professor M, Vol. 1).

*"Marsden believed Australians had been chosen by the Lord to carry the Word of God through evangelism to the surrounding nations. He showed the way."* (Ibid).

*"It is my opinion that God will ere long visit New South Wales with His heavenly Grace. Out of these stones He will raise up children unto Abraham. There has not been shaking yet among the dry bones, but the Son of Man is commanded to prophesy and I hope by and by, the Lord will command the wind to blow. Stir up Thy strength and come among us."* (Hassall Rev. J.).

**Captain Charles Sturt (1843)**

Sturt: *"...prophesied that the men of South Australia would one day people the heart of the continent and that the Australian colonies would emulate America."* (Clark Professor M, Vol. 3 p.46).

**Edward John Eyre (1840)**

Eyre wrote: *".....the hand of a directing and beneficent Being appears most plainly discernible, fulfilling those gracious promises which he had made, to hear them that call upon Him in the day of trouble. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water."* "Behold, I will

*do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."* (Isaiah 41:17-18, 43:19). (Fitzpatrick K.).

**Reverend Joseph King (1894)**

*"Like a thread which holds the beads, a Divine purpose runs through the life of every Christian nation,... We are to be, God intends us to be, a missionary people. All in Australia who find Christ are to proclaim Him. He must be proclaimed in our own cities, towns, country settlements, and lonely pastoral homes, for He is the only King who can save men and women and set them free, and lift them into the likeness of God. And to the nations sitting in darkness beyond the horizon which Australia commands, to India, China, Japan and Isles of the Seas, we must send our messengers to plant everywhere, wherever there are men to be saved, the same kingdom..... Most significant to us is the fact that from the very dawn of civilisation Australia has been the scene of missionary activities.....Adding to this fact of our geographical position in relation to the teeming Asiatic populations to whom Christ is not known, the conviction is forced upon us that the churches of Australia have a special missionary call.....believing that His divine will has shaped our history as a people, a feeling of Australian patriotism becomes a factor in our missionary zeal."* (King Rev. J).

**Prime Minister Alfred Deakin**

Deakin offered this prayer, just one of many he prayed for the nation:  
*"Father of nations,...Enable us to pursue the cause of unity in spite of the obstacles which at present appear to beset our path elsewhere. Guide us to appeal to that which is best and purest so as to make its development and mastery sure under our forms of government. Aid us to purify ourselves by our labours for the general well and to invoke spiritual and moral principles so as to link us with our brethren on the highest plane to which we can at present attain. God preserve this people and grant its leaders unselfish fidelity and courage to face all the trials for the sake of brotherhood. Thy blessing has rested upon us here yesterday and we pray that it may be the means of creating and fostering throughout all Australia a Christlike citizenship."* (Deakin A. Prayer 223, 4/6/1898).



*".....God bless my country and my race and all that live and grant that I may trust Thy Will and live so as to serve their best needs to my best ability." (Ibid.).*

### **Prayers Offered at Federation (1901)**

*"Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to regard with Thy Merciful favour the points of this land, now united in one Commonwealth. We pray for Thy servants of the Governor-General, the Governor of the States, and all who are or who shall be associated with them in the administration of their several offices. We pray Thee at this time you vouchsafe Thy special blessings upon the Federal Parliament now assembling for the first session, and that Thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of Thy glory and to the true welfare of the people of Australia, through Jesus Christ our Lord..... Amen".*

### **Smith Wigglesworth (Early 1900s).**

Early this century that great man of God Smith Wigglesworth prophesied almost the identical thing as de Quiros had three centuries prior, that the Southland of the Holy Spirit - Australia/New Zealand (and the islands of the South Pacific) would herald the last great move of the Holy Spirit before Jesus' return.

### **Kenneth E Hagin**

(Prophecy given by him in Brisbane (Australia) 29<sup>th</sup> May 1976)

*"Be not doubtful nor fearful for the hand of the Lord is upon you for good and not for evil. He will manifest himself in your land.....Many will turn, many of you will look and say 'why its almost impossible that they ever be saved. Liberal minded men, renegades - but they will turn to the Lord, for the power of God will be made manifest. And even those who have walked in the doctrines of devils and false religions, and many would have thought - never, never, never could the Spirit of God invade that domain. But they shall come and bow down before Him, just like others..... And great testimonies you shall hear, and looking upon their face you shall perceive the Glory of the Lord.....For the Lord is at work within the land. An army He is arraying filled with Glory, empowered by His Spirit.*

*"The work is not done...get out into work! I can hear the Spirit of God saying 'Up, get about the Father's business'. This is the day of visitation, this is the day of restoration, this is the hour, not tomorrow but today! Go forth in His glory and power, it will be manifested upon thee and through thee and many shall be converted to the Lord. I believe it!....We are about to shake ourselves and rise up like a giant....I can hear the Spirit of God...saying 'it will be said of the men of this land, as it was with those in the early church. They that turned the world upside down are come hither! (Hagin Rev. K).*

### **Gina Jennings - Kenneth Copeland's Eagle Mountain Church Texas USA - Prayer Seminar July '99**

Gina declared it was time to pass the baton of responsibility for reaching the other nations to Australia. This was Australia's Bar Mitzvah - the accepting by the Father of the son into His business. Bar Mitzvah is the ceremony of maturing and the church in Australia has matured sufficiently to accept this responsibility. Gina wept as she handed the "baton of responsibility for the nations" from the USA to Australia. Australia had noticeably declined during the 1970's, there was a move in Federal politics to dismantle Australia's Judeo-Christian heritage. Men's wisdom was given precedent in education, family law and even in many churches.

### **The Presence Of The Lord Comes Back To The Nation's Capital - The Opening of Parliament 1996**

I was thrilled when I was given a copy of the 28th Annual Service of Worship for the opening of the 38th Parliament and the 1996 Parliamentary Year in Canberra. Let me quote: Prayer by the Minister: *"merciful father, we worship you in wonder and in love. Our minds cannot contain you, nor our words express you. In Christ we see your glory, hear your Word of truth and know your forgiving love. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, gracious Trinity, we bless and adore you."*

Politicians: *"Almighty God, you love us, but we have not always loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We have walked away from our neighbours in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, prejudice and greed. Help us to face up to ourselves, so that as you move towards us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you and receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"*



Minister: *"Hear the good news! Let me assure you that God has rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his Son, by whom we are set free, our sins are forgiven."*

Then Prime Minister John Howard read the passage in 2 Samuel 6:2-19 where David brought the ark of the Lord back to Jerusalem: *"And David arose and went with all the people ....to bring up from there the ark of God, ..So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle....And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord."* What a symbolic passage. The very anointing and presence of the Lord was being returned to the nation's capital by the nation's leader! The leader of the Opposition, Kim Beazley read from 1 Peter 3:13-18 which talks about Christ's suffering, while Cheryl Kernot, leader of the Democrats at that time, read from Matt.10:24-33.

### My Vision, My Dream For Australia

This is Australia's Centenary of Federation, a time when we should give thanks to the Lord for the wonderful gift of our freedom. It should be a time when we reflect upon the goodness the Lord has shown to our great nation and how he has raised us up to be a light that shines, a light of freedom, justice, righteousness and hope. Australia as a haven of peace in a troubled world is something we should never take for granted as the tragic bombings in the USA bear witness.

From 1606 - when Pedro de Quiros named this land "South land of the Holy Spirit", to Captain James Cook, Rev. Richard Johnson, Captain Charles Sturt, Prime Minister Alfred Deakin to the modern times no one could fail to see God's hand upon our land. But how can we play our part in retaining the priceless Christian Heritage that has been handed down to us from our forefathers?

As believers we realise that our roots are found in Abraham - the father of faith. Genesis 12:2 says *"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you will be a blessing."* We see from this verse that God's desire was to raise up a great nation. His place and purpose is to bless nations. However if we are truthful and look at our nation's present condition, we see a decline in morality, hope and direction over the last 50 years.

But God is not through with us, He is looking for those who would not only talk "salt" and "light" - but live it! He is looking for politicians, business people and youth who will stand up for righteousness and make a difference with their lives. These are the people whom God will bless by promoting them into positions of authority so that they can make positive changes. When people turn to the Lord and follow after Him, He will bless them and help them. Psalm 33:12 says *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."*

What can you do to help your nation to be blessed? You can purpose to live a godly life, to walk in the light of God's Word, to the best of your ability. Your life does make a difference. In fact the way you live affects your country. Proverbs 14:34 says: *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."* Right living is what causes a nation to prosper and grow. But sin has the opposite affect and destroys lives. One can see this born out in history. When we maintain a moral standard and choose to live according to God's principles, there follows blessing and prosperity. But when people move away from Biblical principles a curse can manifest itself in that home and nation.

There is an important area where we need to lift our voice that exceeds even our voice in government, it's the voice of prayer! The Bible declares that prayer can make the difference in guiding a nation. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says: *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* God did not say He would heal the land when everyone got saved, prosperous or healed. He didn't even say He would heal the land when everyone was living right! The qualifications for the healing of the land are met when people humble themselves and pray! Everything does not have to be perfect for God to bless the land. When we lift our voices in prayer, we can make a difference! Your prayers can open the windows of heaven and open doors for the Lord to impact society and bless the nation. Your prayers help bring about God's plan in the earth. The most powerful position is not in Parliament House, nor the United Nations - it's on our knees making supplication to the God of heaven from a heart that is seeking after Him. If we will pray we will begin to see God move and see great things happen. I beseech the Christians of this great land, to stand up for their Christian beliefs, and lift their voices to heaven in prayer.



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# Project "Discover Our Christian Heritage"

God has given me a great love for my homeland, Australia. Because of this love I have a desire to see the youth of this great nation come to know their rich Christian heritage. Will you help me achieve this? Jan and I plan to take this book and place it - free of charge - into as many schools, colleges and libraries across this nation as we can. To fulfil our dream it takes money, so firstly we need your help financially. A gift of \$100 will place 10 books into schools, \$500 will enable us to place 50 books and \$1000 will let us place books into 100 schools.

Secondly, we need volunteers to contact the schools in your area and place the books. This book:

- (1) Teaches the youth of Australia their true heritage.
- (2) Brings the churches and Christians together in unity.

Can you help? Are the youth of this nation entitled to know the truth about their heritage or are we going to continue to allow them to be kept in the dark, with little "hope in God"?

If you can help, please contact us at:

**Col Stringer Ministries Inc**  
**PO Box 3554**  
**Robina Town Centre Qld. Australia.**

Phone 07 55227367 **Note new phone number**  
 Email [colstringer@austarnet.com.au](mailto:colstringer@austarnet.com.au)  
 website [www.onthenet.com.au/~eagle1](http://www.onthenet.com.au/~eagle1)





# Discovering Australia's Christian Heritage

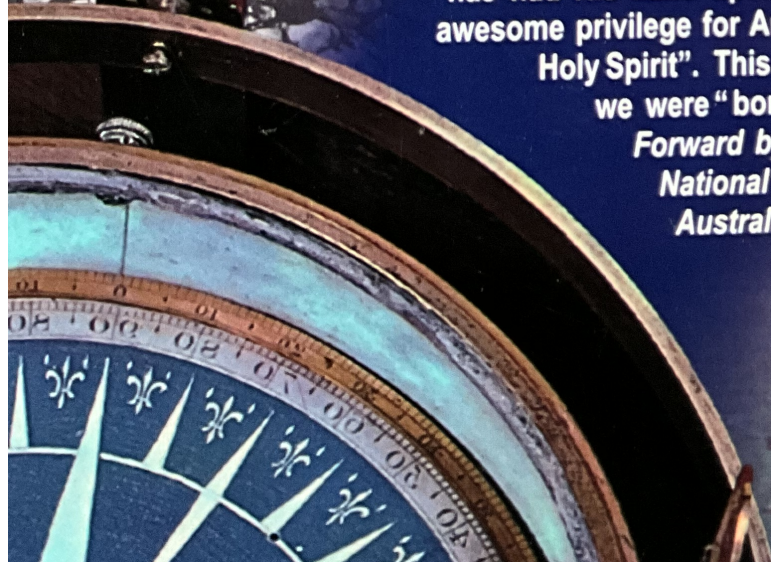
*"He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them - even the children not yet born - so they in turn might teach them to their children. So each generation can set its hope anew on God. (Psalm 78: 1-8 Living Translation)."*



Few Australians know anything of their nation's rich Christian heritage and the fact that many of our early explorers, pioneers and politicians were men and women of God. It is unknown and sadly untaught that the first spoken words over this nation by one Fernandez de Quiros on the day of Pentecost 1606 not only named Australia "South Land of the Holy Spirit," but also claimed it in the name of Jesus and for the proclamation of the Gospel.

How many Australians are aware that Captain James Cook, Captain Charles Sturt, Edward John Eyre, Ludwig Leichardt, Flynn of the Inland and many other famous names were Christians? Even fewer are aware that our nation's Constitution was written by Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, a born again believer who prayed and fasted to hear from God. While fewer still are aware that Australia has seen the Holy Spirit poured out in some 70 documented revivals! Sadly, Australia's Christian heritage has been eliminated from the educational and historical records. Generations of Australians have missed out on an honest look at our past, our Godly foundations. This book has been written to show the Christian heritage of this great nation, and to show how the Lord has had His hand upon Australia since time began. What an awesome privilege for Australia to be called "South Land of the Holy Spirit". This is our name and our destiny. Like Esther, we were "born for such a time as this"!

*Forward by Pastor Brian Houston - Hills CLC and  
National President of the Assemblies of God -  
Australia.*



\$20.00